

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

**ANNUAL REPORT
2018**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2019
in the Church Hall**

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 2018

VICAR

Revd Canon Eve Pitts

READERS

Mrs E Christian

Mr K Rutherford

Mrs J Simms

CHURCH WARDEN

Mrs C Callender

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

**Chair - Revd Eve Pitts, Vice- Chair - Mr K. Rutherford,
Mrs J Simms, Mrs E. Christian, Mrs B. Hamilton,
Mrs C. Callender (Church Warden), Mrs M. Scott.
Ms C. Harris - (Treasurer), Mrs P. Nelson, Miss H. Cross,
Ms V. Flowers, Miss J. De Costa, Miss S. Bartley,
Miss M. West (Chair of HLF Project group),
Miss C. Forrester, Mrs M. Bartley,
Ms M. Barnett (PCC Secretary),**

FABRIC SUB-COMMITTEE

C Callender

PASTORAL TEAM

**E Christian, A Kooner, M Scott, M West,
J De Costa, C Forrester**

**SCHOOL GOVERNORS
H Cross**

**DEANERY SYNOD
Vacant**

**DIOCESAN SYNOD
Vacant**

Figures for	2018	2017	2016
Electoral Roll	105	110	116
Baptisms	10	6	18
Confirmations	0	0	0
Weddings	3	3	7
Funerals in Church	27	24	13
Av Sunday attendance	97	105	105

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

Page

6	Vicar's report
8	Warden's report
9	Treasurer's report
13	HLF project
18	Pastoral Care Team
20	Bereavement Group
21	Holy Trinity Choir
22	Prayer Group
23	Colour Groups
25	Holy Trinity Brotherhood
26	Mothers' Union
32	Holy Trinity CE Academy

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

VICAR'S REPORT

2019 started with a bang! We had started our journey in 2018 by telling our story through interviews, and endless meetings in order to convince the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) that we were a worthy applicant to receive a very large sum of money in order to bring our building up to standard for the 21st century.

We are now well on the way to having a dry church, and (by the end of all the work) a more secure building. This has not been easy, of course. I did say in 2018 that we would not sit back and have a comfortable year. But after wondering if HLF would grant our request, they did - and things are moving.

Since November last year we have seen the visible change to our church, with workmen from 8am , Monday to Friday, on the job to give our building a makeover. We now have a splendid roof, but inside there is 'must do' work on the ceiling. Why do I say 'must do'?

Because if the work is not done, our church building will deteriorate. But with your commitment the church building of Holy Trinity will be secure for future generations of Christians.

Also, there is work in our vestry to improve the floor, the decoration and the electrics - to make it safe. The circuit boards at the back of the church need replacing with modern equipment. When the work is completed there will more hard work - in the form of a big 'clean up' by the congregation.

I have enjoyed the demands of every moment, even the difficult times when I wondered if we would get the money for the necessary work. Of course, if we truly love our church, then we must make a financial commitment to its upkeep.

Some people think it is the legal responsibility of the diocese or the government to pay for the maintenance of churches. This is not true: the individual parishes have to pay for the upkeep of their buildings. If you want a church for the future, please work with me. I want to thank anyone who has given generously and consistently.

Things for improvement

1. We need to be more respectful during the administration of communion; this means no talking.
2. Inviting others to church and welcoming them.
3. Our congregational singing could be better - and has been in the church hall in recent weeks.
4. Time-keeping, especially getting to church for 11am.
5. Attendance at the Prayer Group is increasing, but could be better. Prayer is vital to any church.
6. Most of the Colour groups are not working, and need to be relaunched. We need some new group leaders.

Thanks

Finally, my thanks go to many people:
my church warden, Mrs Callender; the sides persons, members of the PCC, the choirmaster and choir, members of the various committees, those who help run the Lunch Club and the Job Club.

I would like to finish by saying that showing love to each other is not optional, and that working together as a team brings good results.

*Revd Canon Eve Pitts,
April 2019*

CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

I hope everyone is as pleased as I am, looking at our church roof. We should all say a big 'Thank you' to Reverend Eve and her team for the hard work they have done. Those early morning and late-night meetings, together with all what has happened in between have paid off, and we should all be thankful, especially to God.

Our church is going to look fantastic. I thank all members and well-wishers who helped us by contributing funds to the cause. There are individuals who complain that we are always asking for money. However, our church is where we worship and we have the responsibility to take care of the building, as it cannot take care of itself. Again, thank you to everyone who has contributed to our cause; you won't be disappointed.

I am asking for more individuals to come and help us in cleaning the church. I thank all the sides persons and others who have helped. I am very grateful to all who have assisted me over the years since I became Warden. I would like to think that I have served well.

I thank you all for your prayers, deeds and words.

God bless you all and lots of love.

Your Warden,
Cynthia Callender

April 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

(Please note: I had not seen the audited figures when I wrote this report, so some of my figures may be slightly different from the official ones. Anthony Pitts)

INCOME

Every week the figure for the Sunday collection is printed on the notice sheet. This figure comprises three elements:

1. Planned Giving envelopes (the numbered envelopes, one per week) which about 75 members of the congregation used in 2018; **2. The Gift Aid envelopes**, on the pews, used by five to ten people weekly; **3. The loose collection** - coins and notes put in the baskets or two offertory bags.

The total Sunday collection in 2018 was **£38,578**, which was £5000 less than in 2017 and **£9000 less than in 2016!**

Planned Giving remains easily the largest source of income for Holy Trinity. However, this figure fell by £3000 from the previous year, to £28,065. The money in Gift Aid envelopes came to £4500, £800 less than in 2017, and £1200 lower than two years ago. Loose collections on Sundays fell by £1100 to £6012; this was £1500 less than in 2016. Wednesday collections also went down, by £104 to £499.

On a positive note, income from 13 **monthly standing orders** realised £8500 in 2018, nearly £700 more than the previous year, and £2300 more than in 2016. The average per person per month is nearly £55.

Giving by standing order is a far easier and consistent way of giving (and means fewer envelopes for the treasurers to open every week!). 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.

In 2018 Holy Trinity Church claimed back over £4000 tax rebate as a result of your giving.

Funeral fees continue to be the second highest source of income for Holy Trinity: £14,970 in 2018. If you add the £6700 of collections at funeral services, you can see how important funerals are to Holy Trinity. We cannot keep all the money, though, for £130 has to be paid to the diocese for each funeral (26 funerals x £130 = £3380).

Wedding fees and collections brought in £2000 last year, a slight increase on 2017, but £3300 less than in 2016. £201 has to be paid to the diocese for each marriage service in church.

The **Church Hall** was well-used in 2018, bringing £8111 to Holy Trinity.

Holy Trinity received £5300 last year from rent on **9 Leonard Avenue**.

The **Spring Ball** made a profit of £4000; it was decided to pay this into the main church account rather than the Jubilee Fund.

Total income 2018: £103,850 ; 2017: £90,628; 2016: £85,368.

EXPENDITURE

The main items are as follows:

The **Common Fund** is the largest item of expenditure. This payment enables Holy Trinity to have a full-time vicar. We paid £39,669 in 2018, equivalent to £763 every week.

Gas and electricity for church and hall cost £11,213.

Insurance for the church and hall was £7493.

These three largest items, therefore, cost Holy Trinity £58,735 (£1123 per week).

Other large amounts paid out last year included: £3000 for a new floor in the church hall, and £2220 to four charities.

JUBILEE FUND

The Jubilee Fund is Holy Trinity's savings account. where we deposit funds raised for specific appeals (for example, in 2018 for the vestry and the notice board) and monies raised by social events (e.g. the Christmas dinner) and activities run by the Colour groups. This fund-raising continues to be a vital source of income for Holy Trinity and we commend you for your generous giving and support. Various groups and individuals have done very well by organising activities such as raffles, the afternoon tea, the fireworks party and the sale of various items including jewellery, fritters and cake.

In 2018 we paid £11,800 into the Jubilee Fund, to take the balance in the account to about £33,000. This included a bequest of £4000 from someone who attended Holy Trinity many years ago.

Fund-raising efforts included:

the Southport trip: £769; the Fireworks party: £199;
the Harvest sale: £188.

Donations for vestry improvements raised £920, while money given for a new notice board came to £434.

Colour groups were less active than in 2017, resulting in a fall of their contributions of £300, to £519.

The Gold group raised £92 with the sale of jewellery; the popular afternoon tea of the Red group made a profit of £106; the Silver group's fritters contributed £75, and the Orange group made £227 with its sale of cakes at the Lunch Club.

And finally....

Thanks go to our Warden, Mrs Callender, and to Jillian De Costa for their cheerful contributions every week to counting the money, assisted by port, coffee and chocolate biscuits Sometimes it takes us up to four hours to finish the task.

Finally, thank you for your 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,

Anthony Pitts, Assistant Treasurer.

Christine Harris - Treasurer

April 2019

HLF PROJECT REPORT – Building a New Future for Birchfield

In July 2018, Holy Trinity Church received confirmation that our 2nd round Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant application was successful. This meant that we were awarded up to £211,700 to be spent on the main works of repairing the church roof. This also meant that following our earlier 1st round development grant of £38,300, we had achieved the aim of successfully applying for the full £250,000 grant that was available to us under the Grants for Places of Worship scheme, a major feat for the church.

At the end of August 2018, we had received the official 'Permission to Start' document from the HLF, which allowed us to officially start work on the preparations for the roof repairs, such as meeting with our contractor, Midland Conservation Ltd. In November, the scaffolding for accessing the roof was erected, signalling the start of the actual repair work. As a precaution against intruders climbing the scaffolding to access the roof and stealing lead, the scaffold at ground level was protected by high corrugated metal panels. For some members of the local community, Holy Trinity Church looked like it was under closure for demolition, but Revd Eve has done her best to reassure local residents that we are not closing, just having some important work done to ensure that we stay open for the foreseeable future. A poster has been on display outside of church, to inform anyone passing by that repair works are in progress, funded by the HLF.

The repairs programme was scheduled from November 2018 until March 2019. The contractor we have appointed for the work is Midland Conservation Ltd, based in Walsall. The project team at church (Revd Eve, Marcia West, Derek Douglas, Marie Barnett, Christine Harris, Michael Hastilow) continues to be supported by project architect, Donald Insall Associates, who is also the inspecting architect for Holy Trinity. Libby Watts is our main contact for the

architects, and has worked as the link between the church as the client, the contractor and any other professionals or contractor that is needed on the project. Paul Daniels Quantity Surveying Ltd, from Worcester, has the role of monitoring the repair costs and ensuring that our funds are spent to produce value for money.

The original agreed purposes or tasks for the roof repairs are as follows:

- Re-roofing the nave and chancel roofs
- Repairs to low level Aisle and vestry roofs
- High level stone repairs
- Replacement of rainwater goods with cast iron

There have been some adjustments and/or additional works that have had to be carried out. During the work on the high level roof outside, it was noticed that the interior ceiling panels were being affected, with extra cracking and/or plaster pieces falling down. This issue has been known about for some time over the years, but the repair work has exacerbated the problem. It has now led to the current situation where the ceiling needs to be fully examined and repaired to ensure the continued operation of Holy Trinity Church. It has been estimated that it will take around £50,000 to make good the ceiling panels. A large part of the cost is the scaffolding needed to reach the upper levels of the building. Around £30,000 has been saved out of the budget by the architect, by not spending on areas or items that are not viewed to be urgently in need of attention. Holy Trinity Church has been asked to provide £20,000 towards the cost, which Revd Eve, after much thought and discussion suggested that it should be taken out of the reserve funds for Mark House.

With the funds in place, work on the church will carry on for another eight weeks, up to the end of May 2019. A decision will have been taken week beginning 22nd April, to decide upon the best way of repairing the ceiling. There are two options:

1. Repair some panels with plaster and board over those panels that are too damaged/not suitable for repair
2. Board over all affected panels

This is a major decision to make, as costs for the scaffolding hire and quotes from contractors have to be judged, with the view of getting the best value for the money that will be spent. Our project team at church has had to learn that when a project starts out with particular aims and budgets, circumstances may overtake original plans and the project has to be managed accordingly, accepting that you need to be flexible in some areas. Whatever decision is made, it will have been for the best needs of Holy Trinity Church, bearing in mind the finances that we have at present.

As of 23rd April, the project income and expenditure since the Permission to Start is as follows:

Total of costs generated/payments made: £226,087.93

Total of project income received: £209,225.72 (inc HLF grant and VAT reclaims)

The use of the internal scaffolding has meant that no services can be held in the main church. Until further notice, our regular services will be held in the Church Hall. Although church life feels disjointed at the moment, Revd Eve has been impressed by how worship by the Sunday congregation has felt more connected and warm since the move to the Church Hall. It is hoped that this will continue when we return to the main church.

Running alongside but not funded by the HLF, are the vestry repair works. £30,000 is required to complete this smaller project. The funding is in place, thanks to our savings and a small loan from the Diocese. Additional funds have been raised through donations to sponsor slates from the roof repairs. Midland Conservation Ltd is

also the main contractor for this programme, which is also scheduled to be completed by end of May 2019. By this summer all the major works will have been finished, leaving us with a church that is in a far better state of repair than we started this current journey back in 2012/2013, when we first applied to the HLF for funds.

As part of our agreement with the HLF, there will be a programme of activities connected to the works and/or to inform the church and the community about our church's heritage and history. Events such as the Heritage Open Day and Ancestors Arise held in September each year, form part of the programme. Other items include the completion of the research project produced by Dr Angelina Osborne, a display in church featuring highlights of the research and work with Holy Trinity Academy in the hope of producing a time capsule. There will also be a celebration event or service for when the works are completed and the church is back in use again. The HLF has provided funding for our project not just to carry out the physical repairs, but to help us engage church members and the wider community about the church, so that as wide a range of people can have access and a stake in the life of Holy Trinity Church.

It remains to say that as of 18th April, the main roof repairs were completed! We have some way to go before the whole project including the other activities is signed off and evaluated, but our main aim has been reached: to ensure that the church building is made watertight and protected, so that church members and visitors can use the church space in safety. Our church will continue to be in use for what we hope will be another 150+ years.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the project over the years, by either being a project group member, volunteering time for activities, providing extra funding, and giving encouragement and

support by prayers and kind words. The project group will continue to update the church as much as possible about progress, please look out for information during services or go to the church website. By the end of 2019, Holy Trinity Church will have much to be proud of achieving.

Marcia West

Chair, HLF Project Steering Group

April 2019

PASTORAL CARE TEAM REPORT 2018

Holy Trinity's Pastoral Care team continued to offer its ministry to church members who are housebound, in care homes or in hospital. Mavis Scott, Evadney Christian, and Angela Kooner are the core members of the group. The team has expanded recently by the addition of newly commissioned pastoral visitors, Jill De Costa and Christeen Forrester. They will accompany the established visitors during their regular visits and will build up their skills and confidence now that they have finished their training. The whole team has also been re-commissioned to serve as pastoral visitors, along with Marcia West.

Team members make regular visits to those who want to receive Holy Communion and prayer, and provide the opportunity for church members to keep in touch with the life of the church. Pastoral visitors can offer a listening ear and can give help and advice if it is wanted. Prayer for the person being visited is also important, especially if they are experiencing difficult times because of illness or other circumstances. Pastoral visiting is our church's way to ensure that those who are not able to attend church regularly, maintain their links with the church community. The team has a regular meeting with Revd Eve to arrange visits, report back on visits and to discuss any concerns that team members have. More members of the church have been unable to attend church due to illness or increasing frailty and new names are added to the visiting list. Sadly some people who did receive visits have died over the past year.

Each year, all of the Pastoral Care Teams in the Diocese are invited to an Away Day, held in March. This year's event took place on Saturday 16th March at Carrs Lane Church, and the theme was 'Letting God's Love Flow: Living our life of prayer.' The keynote

speaker was Rt Revd John Pritchard, the former Bishop of Oxford. He is also a writer of books about prayer, faith, spirituality and the priesthood. During the morning sessions he spoke about the meaning and importance of prayer and gave some useful guidelines on how to develop a habit of prayer. In the afternoon, our pastoral team participated in various workshops run on the following topics:

- Reaching out to Children
- Anna Chaplaincy and the Gift of Years (ministering to older people)
- Experiencing silent prayer
- Collective worship in Care Homes
- Sensing and hearing from God in today's noisy world
- How to set up a Dementia Cafe
- Visiting and praying in end of life situations

The day was ended with a collective act of worship.

If you would like a visit from the pastoral team, or you know a member of church who does, please contact any member of the group.

***Holy Trinity Church Pastoral Care Team
April 2019***

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Holy Trinity Bereavement Group started on 13th May 2011.

The 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 for discussion and also to plan our yearly All Souls' Service, which usually takes place in October.

The group consists of 3 members, myself Elaine Dawkins, Geraldine McGhie and Rev Eve, we are 2 members short and is still hoping to get another 2 members. If anyone is interested please see Rev Eve or Elaine and Geraldine.

We send out 3 letters yearly to bereaved families, 1 to confirm who we are and what we do, 1 to invite them to our yearly Remembrance Service, and 1 in the New Year to see how they coped over Christmas without their loved ones.

God Bless

Elaine Dawkins, Geraldine McGhie and Rev Canon Eve Pitts.

HOLY TRINITY CHOIR

We normally practise on a Thursday evening with Brian the church organist, or once a fortnight with Elaine. Whilst we haven't been able to practise in the church, we have been putting the hall to good use and still practising very hard to achieve the best from our voices and we are still aiming high.

We recently had our annual night out at a Caribbean restaurant and it was a most enjoyable evening. We invited the churchwarden as our guest. During the meeting we were able to plan the way forward. I recently was in talks with Elaine; we have some ideas planned to bring to the choir in the near future. We are still on the lookout for fresh voices and new faces. There is no age limit, so if you've got the time and feel you would like a new hobby come and join us on Thursday evenings at 6:15.

We are about to take a short Easter break but will be back with some new songs.

Jillian De Costa

PRAYER GROUP

There are 8 members in this group, which meets once a month in church. This is a group which is open to anyone; you do not have to be a member of the group to attend the prayer meeting.

We pray for the world, the church and Rev Eve; we have so much to be thankful for.

This group is also available to visit your home to pray for you with just a few members. I have recently sent out letters to the team with future plans for this group. Some group members are able to give Communion, when requested, if you are unable to come to church. Some members are also part of the pastoral care team.

My prayers go out to Holy Trinity church members and visitors. We can pray for you individually in church. The Prayer Group is now part of the Sunday morning intercessors' rota. But don't forget you can join us at anytime. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe in Jesus' name. Amen.

Jillian De Costa

COLOUR GROUPS' REPORTS

1) GOLD GROUP

The Gold group still needs some quality time together and eating out is again on the agenda for 2019 as well as hopefully planning together another community/charitable/educational event in the near future.

The group also arranged the Christmas raffle prizes for 2018 and has made contributions as individuals towards other events.

We also agreed to make an annual collection each year which goes to church but this will need to be collected and submitted. 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 again to members of the group for their prayers, support and commitment in supporting the growth and development of the church and for being a shining light in a very unpredictable and challenging world.

Jenny Ranson

PS I think it is time for a new facilitator for Gold Group and would very much like the opportunity to be given to someone who does not lead or who has not been as involved in the events of the Church. Thank you to the group for their support and commitment to God, the Church and to each other as brothers and sisters in fellowship with Christ.

2) SILVER GROUP

Leader: Christen Forrester. Christeen reports: 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, and some members are housebound.

However, we are in constant communication, mainly by phone, meeting in church on Sundays, home visits, also hospital visits and at the Wednesday Lunch Club. The year 2018 has been a challenging year for me and others in the group.

Fritters sale amounted to £75.

Many thanks for your prayers and support throughout the year: it is greatly appreciated. It is hoped to continue the fritters when the church renovation is completed.

Remember, our church needs our continued support. We continue to support each other through prayers, encouraging and reassuring words with Christ at the forefront and in our hearts.

Thank you all for you support and my God bless and provide for us all.

Regards,

Christeen Forester

3) GREEN GROUP

The Green team has not been very active for most of the year, but we do support the Games afternoons in the church hall, and I am very pleased to say we do very well in winning quite a few of the dominoes matches. *Jillian De Costa*

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 the 'Boar's Head' in December.

We open every meeting with prayer and the group's hymn, *A New Commandment*. Sometimes we play dominoes .

The Brotherhood organised four Saturday afternoons of Games in the church hall in 2018, open to anyone. Each was attended by about a dozen people, and some serious dominoes were played. But other games were available, including: draughts, darts, snakes & ladders, Connect 4. 'Mastermind' and Jenga.

Brotherhood members enjoy singing. We added two songs to our repertoire: Stuart Townend's version of 'The Lord is my Shepherd' and, thanks to Pastor Tom, 'Leaning on the Everlasting Arms'.

We sang those two in church on Fathers' Day.

Some members sang with the church choir at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols just before Christmas.

Outings in 2018:

March: "Black Panther" at Odeon, Broadway Plaza, when Brotherhood members were the first customers to try some impressive, new recliner seats.

July and August: crown green bowling at the 'Drake's Drum'.

October: 'Motown Musical' at the Alex Theatre.

The Brotherhood attended St James's church, Handsworth, in March, when a former member, Revd Wayne Hamilton, was licensed as Assistant Priest.

Chair: Mike Gregory; Secretary – Anthony Pitts; Treasurer – George Bartley.

Our regular attendance is between seven and ten men.

NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME.

Please see Anthony Pitts.

Anthony Pitts

MOTHERS' UNION

This is a shortened version of the report presented by the MU chair, Veronica Flowers at the Holy Trinity Birchfield Mothers' Union AGM on 16th February 2019.

Mothers' Union is a charity

To date we have 16 Mothers' Union (MU) members at Holy Trinity Birchfield. The Branch Leader is Veronica Flowers, Secretary Anthony Pitts, Treasurer is Christine Harris. All have been in post since November 2013.

Holy Trinity Mothers' Union members usually meet on a Saturday morning in the Church hall. Members bring and share refreshments. The meetings focuses on the Holy Trinity MU projects, MU events, presentations, our well-being, sharing interesting, stories, advice and guidance, worship and prayers.

Sunday 18th February 2018: St Valentine Service

Members volunteered to prepare the roses and refreshments for the service. The event was supported by church members, Waveney Richards and Angela Watson, who decorated the church with red balloons and decorations. The congregation enjoy this popular service and most members wore red clothing to celebrate Valentines. The Service was led by Rev Eve. A selection of love songs was played throughout the service, there was time for reflection and enjoyment. Rev Eve invited the male church members to present each female with a red rose. After the service there was social gathering with refreshments.

Elders' Trip to the MAC - March 2018

Lunch club members enjoyed a day out to the Midland Arts Centre to watch the film from the elders' project. Free coach travel was arranged to transport the elders to the venue. It was exciting to see the elders on the big screen discussing their experiences of when they first arrived in the UK.

The film screening was followed by viewing the exhibition including Holy Trinity elders. There were displays of elders' artistic photographs, art linking to the Caribbean including a striking portrait of Rev Eve painted by Ola Brown. Rev was surprised, delighted and humbled by the painting and thanked Ola for her contribution. The day ended with a Caribbean meal enjoyed by all.

Passover Service - Thursday 29th March

Mothers' Union and church members worked together to decorate the church hall for the Passover service. Church members provided bring and share supper and selected food items specifically for the service. The MU was involved with the delivery of the service. Rev Eve chose members to have their feet washed. The service was a vibrant, reflective and enjoyable event.

Festival Service - Saturday 20th April 2018

The annual MU Festival service was held at Birmingham Cathedral in the City Centre and attended by MU members citywide. Holy Trinity Birchfield had good representation: we took part in the banner parade and led on the readings.

May - Elders' event at The Lighthouse, Aston

The Lunch Club elders attended a Windrush event at the Lighthouse youth centre in Aston. The event included watching performances from musicians; elders took part in Sandra Golding's drumming workshop. There was poetry and spoken word about the Windrush generation, and time for reflection. After the performances the elders socialised and enjoyed a tasty Caribbean meal.

Friday 10th Aug - Council Meeting at St Lawrence, Northfield

Veronica, Anthony and Jillian represented Holy Trinity attending the City wide Council meeting at St Lawrence's Church.

These meetings give you the opportunity to meet other members and share ideas and get updates on MU projects locally and worldwide.

The guest speaker was the Chaplain from Birmingham Children's Hospital, who delivered a presentation of his background, how he supports bereaved families and his work with other faith leaders in the hospital.

Church Open Day - Saturday 8th September

This successful event was led by MU member Jillian De Costa with the support of Church members. The aim of the event is to provide historic information about Holy Trinity, Birchfield to the public. The MU had a stall and provided visitors with information about the Mothers' Union and sold Christmas cards providing funds for MU enterprises.

Craft Day Holy Trinity hall - Saturday 20th October 2018

Several church members offered their skills in sewing, needlecraft and knitting. By the end of the day, with support, Revd Eve completed an A line skirt using Jamaican plaid fabric. She was so proud of her skirt and wore it to church the following day.

Jillian cut out a skirt and top from wonderful African fabric; the skirt was completed on the day but we ran out of time to make the top. However, Jillian got help after the event to complete her top and proudly wore her outfit to church

Mrs Scott had a beautiful evening gown altered by Veronica, Marcia Barnett was making needlecraft of an Anglican image, Beverley Anderson was an all rounder helping with sewing, knitting and cutting out, and Anthony was supported to sew a button on his shirt. There was lots of creative learning and laughter. And we ran over the time.

Lunch Club Christmas Meal - Wednesday 12th December

Our Loyal lunch club attendees were treated to Christmas lunch desserts and wine. The menu included delicious turkey and salmon dinner. The afternoon was full of laughter, fun and socialising.

December

We purchased a projector and screen, advised by Theo Rutherford, to use with the Mothers' Union Projects and in conjunction with the church activities supported by the MU.

Mothers' Union Projects

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club was launched on 28th May 2014. It opens fortnightly 12pm – 2pm on Wednesdays. Mavis Scott and Christeen Forrester lead on the preparation of delicious meals and tasty vegetable soup. The other volunteers vital to the running of the lunch club include MU member, Beverley Anderson and non- members Norma Hollingsworth, Lorna Brown, Masie McCarthy and Patricia Hamilton. This support was called on when Christeen and Mavis were unable to prepare the meals because of illness.

The Lunch Club is Holy Trinity's MU main fund raiser and funds the resources for the Lunch and Job Club.

Birchfield Job Club

The Job Club, launched in January 2017, is going from strength to strength with over 150 job seekers getting support to get back into training or employment. There are nine volunteers with advising roles and helping with refreshments. The Job club offers a friendly and welcoming service. There are good links with Department of Work and pensions. Other churches have visited Birchfield Job Club, hoping to set up the same facility in their own locality.

The volunteers attend on a rota basis; some members are happy to attend each week. There is a break during the main holidays.

The Job club is still developing and there were several meetings to look at a new database devised by Sampson Odubanjo to record how job seekers were supported. This is ongoing with the support from Sampson.

Rev Eve, Sandra Golding and Veronica Flowers gave an interview with a reporter from the 'Church Times' to discuss the vision of the Job Club; other volunteers were photographed at the Job Club. The impressive article was placed on line and well received by all.

Thank you to all the job club volunteers for supporting people in the local community, with a special 'thank you' to Sampson for taking time to train the volunteers on the new database.

Plans for the future

The Lunch Club and Job Club will continue to be the hub for supporting and promoting positive activities and socialising for Church members and the local community

On behalf of the Holy Trinity Birchfield Mothers' Union leadership team, I would like to thank all our members and non members; thank you To Rev Eve for her continued support and blessings. We should be proud of our achievements and build on these achievements by continuing to utilise our gifts, working together in a positive way to support the church and the community.

**God Bless
Veronica Flowers
Mothers' Union Branch Leader**

HOLY TRINITY CE PRIMARY ACADEMY

It has been another exciting year here at Holy Trinity. In January 2019 we joined Birmingham Diocesan Academy Trust (BDMAT). The decision to join BDMAT was made to ensure that there would always be a church school here serving the local community. In the short time that we have been with BDMAT we have been supported as a school and it has given us the opportunity to network with other schools.

Helen Cross and Rev. Eve continue to be part of the Governing Body and attend termly meetings. Helen often comes into school either to visit her assigned class, or to hear readers across different classes. She has even been known to go on a trip or two! We are grateful for the support that both Helen and Rev Eve provide in school.

Due to the building work taking place at Church we have only been able to make it for one service this year. We held our Christmas and Easter services in school and Rev. Eve joined us. We will be looking forward to seeing the completed work at the Church when we come for our final service of the school year in July.

Again, I would like to make an open invitation for any members of the congregation who have not visited to come in and see us at work. If any members of the congregation feel that they have a regular time that they can give to volunteer to hear readers, like Helen Cross, then we would be very grateful for the support.

Paula Burns
Head teacher