

Appendix to the Annual Report of the PCC for 2015:

Reports from church groups and activities

Artistic Explosion

The weekly meetings of Artistic Explosion have moved to Rowan Court as this is more convenient for the participants. It may be that the meetings will return to the Community Hall once warmer weather can be expected.

Baptism Team

In 2012, 2013 and 2014 there were 12, 7 and 4 baptisms respectively but none in 2015. On a much more positive note, in December 2015 and January 2016 there have been five requests for baptisms in 2016 so it is difficult to draw any statistical conclusions from these figures. The Baptism Team presents baptism cards and a candle at the time of a child's baptism and follows up each baptism with a birthday card each year until the child's fourth birthday; in all 18 cards were sent in 2015.

Book Group

The Book Group meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8pm in the community hall. The books we read are an eclectic mix ranging from the classics to the latest best seller. We are a lively friendly group and new members are always welcome. Our discussions are always interesting, we may not always agree but everyone airs their views. Our latest reading list up to July is in March's magazine, if you cannot join us why not read the books and tell Jenny Black what you think?

The Children's Society

We currently have 16 box holders, last year we raised £156.00. If you would like a box please let me know as I have spare boxes. We continue to support the Society at Christmas in several ways. We collect money when we Carol sing at Mayes Court, Oak Court, Royal Court and Rowan Court, we are always made very welcome. A collection box by our Christmas message board in church and proceeds from the Carol service plate this year raised £200.00. Thank you and well done everyone.

Choir

The church continues to have the loyal support of its small choir. No special performances have been attempted during the year, apart from the carol service. On this occasion, the contribution of both additional congregation members and invited guests ensured that the strong 4-part harmony that resulted was a pleasure to both listeners and performers. However, poor attendance at the service, compared to previous years, will make the task of securing outside help more difficult in the future.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week is said to be "The biggest single act of Christian witness in Britain, and possibly in Europe" raising about £12 million each year. The very fluid population in our area makes house-to-house collecting a challenge but a band of faithful collectors still manages to contact most houses in the more settled southern part of the parish. We have helped with the street collections in Fallowfield and Withington on the Saturday of Christian

Aid Week but changes in local by-laws has prevented this happening in the way it has in recent years. A Strawberry Tea in support of Christian Aid also brought together members from other churches in the area.

Commemoration of World War 1

The World War I Exhibition was open Friday mornings during the summer of 2015, as well as during special events in the Hall., and continued to attract interested visitors. We acquired a display board to show important battles of the war, and the presentation to mark the 100th anniversary of Gallipoli was well received. It is planned to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme in 2016. We continue to have consultations with local schools and advised St Paul's School on their WWI exhibition. We keep the Heritage Lottery Fund for the North West informed of all our activities.

Friday Group

The Friday Group meets on Friday mornings at 10 a.m. throughout the year. Its purpose is to maintain the church gardens and hedges; to keep the church clean and ready for services.

There is a core of seven members, three attend to the hedges and lawns; two clean the church; one arranges the church flowers and as sacristan prepares for services, another tends to the plants in church and helps in the garden. From time to time others join in with any of these activities as required.

More helpers are urgently needed.

Food Bank

St Chad's actively supports the Fallowfield and Withington Foodbank which is based at Union Chapel. There is a collection basket in church and donated items are taken to Union Chapel roughly once a month. With mixed feelings, it must be reported that in the period April 2015 to February 2016 over ten tonnes of food was distributed to over 1,400 individuals, each of whom satisfied the stringent criteria for receiving such support.

Grants Group

The Grant Group has met on one occasion. Our work has continued to prioritise efforts into completing the final phase of modernisation of the Community Hall.

A viable, costed, scheme has been agreed with a contractor. However, lack of funding is preventing a start on site. A substantial grant offer has been secured from the Diocese, but previous sources from Landfill Tax credits are no longer available and we continue to search for more grant sources to plug the gap.

Green Group

The Green Group's main activity during the early part 2015 had been the upkeep of the Community Wildlife Garden. However, in March we were fortunate enough to be offered funding and practical support to develop a Community Orchard in another area of the church grounds, adjacent to the Garden. Hard landscaping, fruit trees and herb plants were provided by Clean City Manchester and practical support was given by them together with students and members of the University's Incredible Edible group.

During the summer the Garden, Orchard and Grounds were entered into the Royal Horticultural Society's North West in Bloom "It's Your Neighbourhood" initiative and after

being rigorously inspected St Chad's was awarded a Silver certificate in the "developing" category of this award.

We were also able to install some permanent fencing in the Quiet Area of the Community Garden, funded by a raffle and donations.

During Autumn we hosted an event staged by Red Rose Forest aimed at identifying trees/green areas within the neighbourhood which could be classed as of significant interest and then mapped on a website, with information gathered by the researchers. This was very successful with around 25 people attending.

Just before Christmas we attended an after service session at Union Chapel to talk to congregation members about the development of the garden and orchard as they are beginning to consider the development of their own grounds.

We continue to support recycling within the church and wider community and are looking forward to growing and harvesting fruit and vegetables in the coming months.

Hall Letting Committee

1. **Current and prospective lettings** are very healthy and raised over £11,000 in the year ending 31 December 2015, a 30% increase on the previous year. In addition to regular use by the After-School Club, First Class Learning, a children's Irish dance troupe and the kids' Karate Club, there is significant and growing interest in using the Hall for community meetings, birthday parties and the like, resulting in actual bookings. Feedback from casual users is good.
2. **Booking procedures** There is a calendar and an online booking form on the church website. The PCC is asked to ratify new long-term regular bookings such as First Class Learning and there is a probationary period, usually of four meetings, before a final contract is put in place.
3. **Review of Charges** Current charges for casual lettings – £20 for the first hour and £10 for succeeding hours – have remained unaltered for a further year; the sub-committee continues to have discretion to vary these in individual cases. The rental charge for the After-School Club has been increased in line with inflation.
4. **Cleaning** A local cleaning contractor does one hour of cleaning each Monday morning plus an extra hour every four weeks for £10 an hour.
5. **Birthday party policy** The sub-committee has declined bookings for birthday parties where a bouncy castle was one of the activities.
6. **Use of church for secular purposes** Some enquiries about hiring the Hall have had to be declined because either the Hall was in use or was too small for the activity. The sub-committee has discretion to offer the church for occasional and carefully vetted lettings.
7. **Warning/Advice notices** (mostly about furniture stacking and such like) have been provided.

Health and Safety Committee

Health and Safety Officers regularly oversee all aspects of the health and safety arrangements at St Chad's. Our H&S Policy and Practice documents are now complete and stored in the St Chad's Information Folders. Ecclesiastical Insurance, our insurers, require these documents to be kept up to date.

The following areas have been reviewed :

- Disabled entrance to the Hall and disabled access to church continue to require improvement. One particular issue is the need to repair the brickwork under the rails of the disability ramp at the front of the Hall. Some temporary repair work has been carried out and we plan to ask whichever builder we engage to renew the Hall toilets to carry out a full repair.
- Easy access treatment products for ice/snow are readily available at the main church door.
- All fire extinguishers and fire blankets have been checked. All are in good working order and accessible.
- Safety in the event of a fire has been discussed. H&S Officers are aware that evacuation is the first priority, then search of buildings. Exit Notices may be helpful and also some training for Sidespersons.

It is noted that fire safety in the Hall, when hired out, is included within Hall Management documents. Also After School Club have their own Ofsted Inspected fire procedures.

- Safe access to the organ is currently in the process of being created, following the granting of a Faculty to carry out this work.
- Some attention must be given to the steps up to the Chancel, and around the High Altar in the Sanctuary. Edges need to be much more clearly visible and marked with masonry paint.
- An Accident Book is now in place in the Hall kitchen and there is a requirement that all accidents are to be entered into this. H&S Officers will try to ensure all accidents are reported.
- There is a strong suggestion in our Ecclesiastical Insurance Company documentation that one or two volunteers who work regularly in the Hall kitchen should undertake a course on Kitchen Safety (Hygiene) and that the Certificates could then be displayed.

Kitchen safety in the Hall, when hired out, is also included within Hall Management documents. The After School Club also has its own Ofsted Inspected kitchen hygiene procedures.

- An inspection of the Lightning Conductor has recently been carried out to comply with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company requirements. The lightning conductor was found to be working as it should.
- An electrical inspection we commissioned as part of the Quinquennial Inspection revealed failures in sockets in the west porch and the Priest's Vestry. Repair or replacement of these is being commissioned.
- At the suggestion of our architect a new arrangement has been set up to take cascading rain water from the upper south roof to the guttering on the south aisle. This appears to have stopped rain water penetrating into the church; James, our roofer, has asked us to continue to monitor this

Judith Fletcher, Muriel Hargreaves
Health and Safety Officers, St Chad's Church Ladybarn

Ladies Group

At the AGM in June this year, the members agreed to change the name to 'The Tuesday Group'. The feeling of the meeting being that the change of name was more inclusive and would encourage more members. We currently have 45 members and meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the community hall at 8pm. We enjoy a varied programme involving trips out, speakers and an occasional trip to the theatre. Our meetings are open to everyone and we welcome visitors.

We support Wood Street Mission's Toy Appeal, Easter Egg Appeal and School Uniform Appeal every year. The flowers for Mothering Sunday are provided from Ladies Group funds.

Our ladies are always willing to help at St Chad's various funding raising and social activities in any way they can.

Needlecraft Group

The Needlecraft Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8 o' clock.

Our membership stands steady at 12 who regularly attend and 2 or 3 others who work from home when they can.

Last year the first tapestry for the Baptistry was completed and dedicated and now hangs in the church. The second tapestry is well underway and should be finished this year.

Some members also worked on kneelers and others knitted clothes for the premature babies in hospital.

The group is self-supporting,

Organ Restoration Group

No progress on this has been made this year and the organ continues to gradually deteriorate. We made a fresh look at possible grant-giving bodies and made an approach to one new source. The result was again negative.

The PCC now needs to decide where the future strategy should lie and in particular with regard to the small amount of funds already collected. There are a number of options :-

1. Retain the money for a future date in case a 'fairy godmother' suddenly appears to enable us to undertake the organ restoration scheme.
2. Retain the money to put towards a decent new or second hand electronic organ when the current instrument finally becomes unplayable. New, decent, digital organs currently cost between £20K and £60K, second hand somewhat less, so additional funding, for which no grants will be available, will be needed when that date comes.
3. Do nothing and leave the problem to a future generation.
4. A combination of any of the above, but spend some of the money currently raised on a visit from an organ builder to undertake such repairs as are possible. This would slightly defer the likely 'failure date' of the organ, depending on the proportion of 'solvable faults', but would of course reduce the amounts retained for a future solution. The organ has received no attention for the past four years.

On a more positive note, a new and much safer access to the organ bench has been created, effectively re-instating the access removed in 1952. Grateful thanks are due to Peter Matthews for undertaking this work.

Traidcraft

St Chad's continues to have a key role in Traidcraft in this locality. As well as our own Sunday morning stall, we supply Traidcraft goods on a regular basis to Holy Innocents and St Agnes and occasionally to other churches. Cards and gifts ordered by church members from the Christmas catalogue spread the word about fairly traded goods to friends and relatives. In March we took the opportunity to promote Fair Trade Fortnight at a special afternoon tea showcasing the Community Hall.