

Appendix to the Annual Report of the PCC for 2019

Reports from church groups and activities

Baptism Team

Last year we had five children baptised so the general upward trend has continued. As usual a candle and a card are presented to each child or adult being baptised and cards sent on each birthday until the child reaches four years of age.

Book Group

The group meets on the Third Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall at 8pm. We read a wide range of books from the classics to the latest who-dunnit. There is always a lively discussion and wine, tea and nibbles are enjoyed by us all. We score the books out of 10, surprisingly since the group began in 2009 there are only 2 books we have all given a 10. New members are welcome, if you want to widen your reading horizons do come and join us.

Jenny Black

The Children's Society

The Children's Society boxes held by several members of our congregation raised £126.78 to help the valuable work of the Society. If anyone would like a box, I have some spare boxes.

The community carol singing in the 3 courts were enjoyable evenings for everyone. We enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones and were made very welcome at all 3 courts.

£59.08 for the Society funds was donated.

Jenny Black

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 many of the houses in the more settled southern part of the parish.

On 18 May 2019 we held our third **Big Brekkie** with the slogan **Want to change the world over breakfast?** St Chad's Big Brekkie is now a key event in Christian Aid Week in our area and around 80 people came. The Big Brekkie and the house-to-house collection raised over £800 in and around Christian Aid Week.

On 22 February a bucket collection at the Tesco store in Burnage was coordinated by St Chad's with help from several other local churches. Over £500 was donated; thanks are due to volunteers who achieved this.

Leslie Fletcher

Commemoration of World War I

December 2018 marked the end of our commemorations of the centenary of World War I. In January all the items lent for our exhibition by members of the congregation were returned to their owners.

In 2019 an exhibition was arranged in one of the display cases to mark the eightieth anniversary of the beginning of WWII in 1939. A number of photographs of soldiers of the parish were kindly lent. The display was open to the public at Heritage weekend.

John Davies

Friday Group

There are seven regular members of this group with some others helping when they are available. Our tasks are to keep the hedges and lawns in good shape and generally tidy the church grounds.

The indoor group do the cleaning and housekeeping jobs in church and the hall that the paid cleaner has no time to do.

We polish all the brasses and try to keep the church dust-free and shining. The work on the organ has made this more difficult although the organ men always clear up beautifully when the church is needed for weekends and special services.

The window sills are regularly dusted and the plants in church watered. Tidying up consists of removing out of date papers, replacing candles and removing anything accidentally left in the pews.

We help set up the tables and chairs in church for events that provides refreshments. This also involves carrying cups, saucers &c. from the kitchen into church and clearing up afterwards.

In the Community Hall we tidy what needs to be done on a Friday morning and replace paper towels and toilet rolls. Some of us take home used tea towels and return them washed and ironed.

On rainy days the folk who usually do the grounds help with extra dusting, cleaning and polishing. Peter also mends chairs and deals with gutters and any DIY jobs that needs doing. He also mends and repairs fencing and sees that the environs of the church are safe.

At Christmas, we find the decorations and the Christmas tree then decorate the Community Hall and dress the Christmas tree in church. When the season is over we pack up and store everything until next year.

We enjoy a fun coffee morning/lunch when the Friday work is complete. This is a very friendly group which would welcome new members on a Friday from 10am.

Our aim is to provide a safe, clean, pleasant and welcoming church and grounds for the congregation, local and other groups that use our church and church hall.

The Friday Group.

Food Bank

St Chad's actively supports the Fallowfield and Withington Foodbank which is based at Union Baptist Chapel in Fallowfield.

Members of our congregation faithfully donate regularly items of food such as tea, sugar, cereals, long-life milk, tinned goods, plus toiletries and at Christmas time fancier items such as biscuits and chocolate are donated.

On the third Sunday of each month two members of the congregation take the donations to Union Chapel where a dedicated team sort and distribute the food and other goods. Team members also give benefit advice to service users in addition to making them welcome by offering a drink and biscuits.

At Union Chapel the Foodbank is open from 12 noon until 2pm on Tuesdays and Fridays, and at Holy Innocents on Saturday mornings.

The Foodbank had a very busy period in the last few months of 2019. As ever, the festive period was the busiest with over 300 local people supported in December alone. Thankfully, this coincided with one of the busiest months ever in terms of donations. It is a cliché but the Foodbank could not do what it does without the support of donors. It was heartening to note the number of new donors to go alongside the roster of regular donors. Having this consistent support enables the foodbank to reach new clients who are in need of support. On several occasions recently the warehouse was literally full to capacity, though of course this food is soon distributed to needy clients.

As well as dealing with the busy festive period, Food Bank volunteers have also been out in the local community championing what they do and raising awareness. One example is some volunteers running in the local Park Run, which was very successful in raising the profile of the Food Bank and collecting toiletries kindly donated by the other runners.

The continuing support of people at St Chad's, ensuring that those in the local community get the help they need, is greatly appreciated by all involved in the Food Bank.

Green Group

During 2019 members of the Green Group have continued to maintain and manage our Community Wildlife Garden and Orchard, and have also supported Friday Group by undertaking some tidying in the grounds of the church. We have learned how to prune fruit trees and continue to do our best to manage the willow archway. There is a wild bird-feeding station that is regularly stocked.

Late in 2017, we had received a Neighbourhood Investment Fund (NIF) Grant that enabled us to purchase sufficient trellis panels to complete the fence bordering the Rectory garden, and a new liner and safety cover for the pond. The trellis fence has since been planted with bee and butterfly friendly climbers, including clematis and honeysuckle, which are now well-grown. The pond has also become well-established with oxygenating and flowering plants, and there is abundant frog activity!

During November 2019 we again welcomed students from the Manchester University Student Volunteer scheme. They came for two sessions and worked very hard to remove an unwanted pampas grass from the orchard, and then moved two fruit trees out from a shady section of the wildlife garden, into the orchard. They also helped to tie back the willow archway, and weatherproofed our shed and benches. Finally, they dug over and planted the beds either side of the pathway leading to the main entrance of the West door of the church. Green Group is grateful to the faithful group from our congregation who always help us to provide a welcome to our student visitors.

One of the aims of our Green Group is to pursue the 5th Mark of Mission. This states that, as a church, we should : ‘Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth’. This seems a particularly appropriate aim, given our increasing awareness of the negative impact of climate change on our planet. With this in mind, during 2019 we brought the Eco-church movement to the attention of our PCC. With the agreement of the PCC, we are currently working towards a Bronze, maybe even a Silver, Eco-church Award. Please visit the Eco-church website if you would like further information.

Throughout 2019 we continued to manage our Community Wildlife Garden and Orchard in an environmentally thoughtful manner. We have also encouraged as many visitors and volunteers as we can, to visit and share their ideas.

St Chad's Green Group

Hall Letting Committee

1. **Hall refurbishment** Completion of the final phase of modernisation of the Community Hall – provision of new toilets, improved lighting and redecoration – in April 2019 was a major milestone. It is a pleasure to record the committee's appreciation of all who helped – grant donors; the contractors, IS Construction; volunteers who moved furniture, swept floors &c. and users, who flexed their schedules and worked around the reduced facilities while the project was in progress.
2. **Current and prospective lettings** are very healthy and raised over £11,000 in the year ending 31 December 2019, around the same as the previous year. The After-School Club, Better Results Tuition, and the kids' Karate Club plus advanced karate group have been satisfied regular users of the Hall for several years. New regular users in 2019 include three separate yoga groups and a mother and baby fitness class.

There continues to be a significant number of enquiries about using the Hall for community meetings, birthday parties and the like, but most have to be declined as the timetable of regular users is so extensive. Feedback from casual users is good.

3. **Booking procedures** There is a calendar, an online booking form on the church website and a phone number to ring displayed in the Hall. The PCC is asked to ratify new long-term regular bookings and there is a probationary period, usually of four meetings, before a final contract is put in place.

4. **Review of Charges** Charges for lettings had remained unaltered for several years. if Once the refurbishment of the Hall was completed the PCC reviewed these charges and increased the normal rate to £12 per hour. The sub-committee continues to have discretion to vary this in individual cases.
5. **Cleaning** A local cleaning contractor does one hour of cleaning each Tuesday morning plus an extra hour every four weeks for £10 an hour.
6. **Birthday party policy** The sub-committee has declined bookings for birthday parties where a bouncy castle was one of the activities and for events with a “Hallowe’en” theme.
7. **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. These enquiries, and the use of the church building for church-related activities other than worship, motivate the attention being given to remodelling the church building.

Leslie Fletcher

Needlecraft Group

The Needlecraft Group has nine members who attend regularly and others who attend when they can. It meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month in the community hall at 7.30 pm. Our main aim was to make decorative items for the church and as a focus for prayer and education and as a reminder of Christian seasons and symbols.

Over the last year the bought kneelers have become too expensive and now our source of materials has gone out of business. We are trying to find a reliable new supplier.

We are now concentrating both on covering the red kneelers and looking outwards to the greater community to knit for premature babies and rough sleepers. We will try to provide a shoe box of useful items to give away to them.

This is a friendly group that would warmly welcome new members.

Trena Radcliffe

Science and Religion Evenings

This year we have had five Science and Religion sessions, each enthusiastically received, well-attended and making generous donations. We are grateful to our volunteer helpers who staff the events and provide refreshments.

The first, on 21 February, on The Future of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN was presented by John Dainton, a long standing supporter and a Professor of Physics at Lancaster and an Emeritus Professor at Liverpool. John is an experimentalist who probes rare decays of sub-atomic quanta. He was supported by Jack Helliwell, a member of our congregation and a PhD student in theoretical particle physics at Manchester. His work concerns how quarks and gluons, the constituents of the proton, account for what is observed in the energetic proton-proton collisions in the Large Hadron Collider. The evening's cutting edge science was made accessible in the lively discussions that ended the evening.

The unavailability of the hall delayed our second session until 1 July and was on Life, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Robots. It was led by Dr Scott Midson, well known through his time with us when he was working for his doctorate. He was supported by Dr Martin Yuille of Manchester University, a Reader in Biobanking. (A biobank stores biological samples, usually human, for research.) The relation between human life and artificial intelligence is a controversial one and led to much animated discussion.

Our third session, on 7 September, was for children and through Dr Midson Scott and his students, designed to introduce them to robots: Pepper, MiRo the dog and other smaller robotic machines. It was a great success.

A fourth evening on 23 September was presented by Dr Martin Yuille, his topic: *What is Life?* The session showed how complex it was. Everyone left with a great deal to think about.

It is convenient to report on a fifth session on 20 January 2020. Professor Dainton spoke on the intriguing title, *Chasing Rarity: finding that which shouldn't happen but does!* A process called 'kaon decay' produces a charged particle which produces another charged particle and something which can't be observed and which the Standard model of Sub-nuclear Physics says shouldn't happen!

Albert Radcliffe

Traidcraft

St Chad's continues to have a key role in Traidcraft in this locality. As well as our own stall on Sunday mornings, at Christmas Fairs &c., we supply Traidcraft goods on a regular basis to Holy Innocents 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 promoted Fair Trade Fortnight at a special coffee morning jointly with St Nicholas Burnage.

In September 2018 Traidcraft plc contacted all their partners to tell them of the financial difficulties it was facing. In November it announced that the Board of Traidcraft has accepted a plan for a significantly changed organisation which began its work at the start of 2019.

In February 2019, Traidcraft CEO Robin Roth wrote:

The last few months have been some of the hardest in our history. Facing up to the fact that the old way of working was going to bankrupt us was tough. We were trying to cover too many bases in an ever more competitive world. But once we knew what we had to do, and once we felt the surge of support from so many of you, the ride was easier to negotiate.

Judy and Leslie Fletcher

Tuesday Group

The Tuesday Group continued to meet four times a year in 2019. We enjoyed a variety of social evenings, a Jacobs Table, Rector's Quiz, Cheese and Wine and a Dessert Delights Supper in all raising £316.81p for church funds.

We supported Wood Street Mission's Christmas Toy Appeal sending several large black bags full of new toys to them in November.

Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped at the events in 2019.

Jenny Black