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ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WATERBEACH

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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The primary objective of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. To achieve this, the PCC co-operates with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church; pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We are pleased to present this account of our activities in 2017.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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Our mission is to serve God in the community of Waterbeach. To achieve this, we must make the church available to all who need it, through worship reflecting the breadth of Christian experience, through service to all in need, through prayer and through teaching.

### OUR VISION

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To be a Church where we are:

Rooted in Christ

Growing together in the Spirit

Reaching out with God's love

### OUR ETHICAL AND FAIR TRADE POLICY

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- To use Fair Trade products wherever possible;
- To choose financial services from institutions which publish and report on their ethical trading policies;
- To choose consumable items (e.g. paper) from suppliers who can demonstrate the environmentally-friendly nature of their products;
- To consider the environmental impact of building works;
- To consider means of reducing our energy use in the long term;
- To educate ourselves and our church in environmental, ethical and fair trade issues.

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Waterbeach is situated on Station Road, Waterbeach. It is part of the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Parish Office, St John's Church Room, Station Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge CB25 9HT.

Bankers:                      The Co-operative Bank plc,  
                                      1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

Independent Examiner:   Matthew Pettifer  
                                      Staffords Chartered Accountants  
                                      Unit 1, Cambridge House, Camboro Business Park, Oakington Road, Girton,  
                                      CAMBRIDGE CB3 0HQ

## THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

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The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. The appointment of PCC members is set out in and governed by the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Associate Vicar	The Revd. Paul Butler	Chair
Churchwardens	Tiffany Langton Ben Cons (to 22 April, 2018) Paul Tregoing (from 22 April, 2018)	
Deanery Synod Reps	Michael Williamson Katy Astley	Treasurer
Elected members	Hannah Cons (to 22 April, 2018) Dorothy Druitt (to 22 April 2018) Mike Lynch Kirsty Morris Richard Oakes Ruth Rocca-Terry Ingrid Tregoing Jane Williamson Adrian Wright	

The Secretary to the PCC is Jennie Brandon

In 2018 the PCC held six meetings. We discussed:

- Building for Mission: heating, lighting and sound
- Mission Action Planning
- Employment/replacement of a paid Children and Families' Minister
- Pastoral care team
- Kempe window restoration
- Replacing the Church Room as a long-term project
- Future employment of a youth minister
- Safeguarding training
- Restoration of the Book of Homilies
- Fresh Expressions in Waterbeach School
- Risk assessments
- Changes to service times and communion pattern on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays
- GDPR
- Youth worker placement
- Paul Butler's sabbatical in 2020
- Parish Giving Scheme
- Encouraging volunteer roles
- Catering for church events and food hygiene certificates
- Churchyard trees
- Waterbeach Thread[ed] 2019 (eventually cancelled)
- Church Room refurbishment
- Potential creation of new parish in the new development in Waterbeach
- Potential Church plant in new development

- Health and Safety around toy cupboard
- Old Burial Ground care

The following PCC sub-committee met regularly to support the work of the PCC:

- The Building for Mission team, chaired by Paul Butler.

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## ASSOCIATE VICAR'S REPORT

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Once again there has been much to celebrate in the St John's community. We have seen a continuing growth in the number of families who regularly attend church, and it's heartening to see the number of children that attend KidsChurch each Sunday. We also recognise that we're an intergenerational family, and appreciate our more mature members for their wisdom and their faithfulness. In October we welcomed Sarah Baltensperger, who joined us on a three year training placement from Ridley Hall to work with our young people, year five and above.

As a Christian community, we continued to value our diverse church traditions, and acknowledge the vitality of our relationships and our unity in diversity. Whatever our church tradition or worship style preference, our relationships are paramount as we seek to model the love of Jesus as a church family. We have sought to offer a number of worship encounters: from All Age and traditional through to Taizé (at Landbeach) and services with a more contemporary feel. Our Making Sense sessions have continued and we've benefited from biblical scholars and theologians who have encouraged us to reflect more deeply on our Christian faith.

We have sought to serve our local community through our Footsteps preschool groups and Saturdads, a group where dads can bring their toddlers, eat sausage rolls and provide their partners with much needed space and peace!

I want to take this opportunity to record my appreciation to those who have helped to share the leadership load: Ros Wright and Holli Bielby and their team who set up the *Explore* events based around the major Christian festivals; Brian Macdonald-Milne and Chris Barter, our two retired ministers, and Malcolm Brown who assisted me in leading and preaching at Sunday services; the unstinting commitment of Michael Williamson, our choirmaster and treasurer, to both the sung worship of the church and the management of our finances; Adrian Wright for managing the hire of the Church Room, and doing many other supportive tasks; for Jennie Brandon, our parish administrator who once again has kept us on the administrative rails; our two church wardens, Tiffany Langton and Paul Tregging, who contributed a considerable amount of time and energy on projects, pastoral care and routine church management - and for once again keeping the Vicar under control! Also, a big thank you to those members of the church family who served as stewards, chalice servers, readers and intercessors, without which our Sunday services could not run smoothly. Finally, I want to express my appreciation to the PCC, who as the leadership team of the church, have provided me with wisdom, guidance, good humour and an occasional 'no way', as we sought to lead the church together.

We look forward with hope and expectation as we seek to live out the gospel of Christ in 2019, through welcome, hospitality and costly love, and thereby lower the threshold for engagement with Christian faith.

Report compiled by Paul Butler

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## DEANERY SYNOD

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North Stowe Deanery Synod met twice during 2018, in February and July. Katy and I are currently your representatives.

The February meeting was centred around the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) and was led by The Revd Canon Graham Archer, Director of Ministry. This was an open meeting and all in leadership roles in their parishes were invited. He introduced CPAS and their resources for parishes. He also led discussions about the role of PCCs.

The second meeting was held in July and focussed on two presentations. The first was from Janet Perrett who was retiring lay Chair of Diocesan Synod and is also one of the representatives of Ely Diocese on General Synod. She talked about the business of General Synod.

The second was from Martin Kenward on the Parish Giving Scheme. A number of those in Waterbeach give via this scheme and he encouraged all representatives to give serious thought to encouraging its use in their parishes.

At the meeting, James Blandford-Baker, Rural Dean, also updated us all on changes in the Deanery, especially with the building of two new towns at Northstowe and Waterbeach in our Deanery. There are bound to be major changes coming to all of us.

I have copies of the minutes for anyone who wishes to see them.

Report compiled by Michael Williamson

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## CHURCH BUILDING AND ADMINISTRATION

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### CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

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The pastoral care team is growing in number and we have recently enjoyed some training sessions delivered by Paul. We continue to visit people regularly from our congregation and are looking to offer support to the wider community.

A faculty application was made for the new lighting system back in December. The DAC is broadly supporting our request and there are a few more wrinkles to be ironed out before the faculty is granted. We are expecting this will be passed without any further issues which will enable us to commission the works.

The next phase of church improvements will hopefully be a revamp of our ageing audio system. We are in the process of studying quotes and determining what is needed.

Outdoors work planned for this summer includes remedial works on the drive and the continuation of the Kempe window restoration which is due to be finished by the summer, thanks to the 'Friends of St Johns'.

Keeping our church in good order is a huge commitment. The wardens would particularly like to thank Adrian for his continuing hard work which goes a long way to maintaining the fabric of our wonderful church. Thankyou also to all of the assistant wardens whose Sunday morning shifts have eased the burden on us. We are looking to formalise some of the regular maintenance tasks in the weeks coming and would ask you to consider what you could contribute (or what you already do!) towards keeping St John's a special place to be.

Please do get in touch with us if you have questions about anything going on in the church.

Report compiled by Tiffany Langton and Paul Tregoeing

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### ADMINISTRATION

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In the Church Office, this was a challenging and stressful year as, like so many small organisations, we wrestled with the boring but necessary complexities of GDPR. It seemed to swallow up most of my time and many projects (such as the website update), simply got shelved, month after month. This now seems to have been generally put into order with a schedule for updating our provision as we go.

The biggest jobs of the year apart from that were organising publicity for events like Making Sense and Explore where attendance numbers were gratifyingly improved, keeping the Fold, social media channels and website up-to-date and generally trying to make sure information got to the right people at the right times, ever the challenge.

As ever, I am struck by the charity and flexibility of this church community (especially when I am compiling the rotas). I am always grateful to the Church Wardens, Jane Oakes and Adrian Wright for all their help and Paul for his unstinting support and encouragement.

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### MUSIC AT ST JOHNS

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The choir continues to support the worship at St Johns. I know that for many of the members this is a really important part of their Christian life.

We had two very successful special events during the year. We held a 'Come and Sing' performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on Palm Sunday. My thanks go to the organist and two soloists who joined us for the occasion. The performance was held in memory of Raymond Bell who had recently died and who played for previous similar performances until his hands became too stiff.

Our annual Carol Service was extremely successful and I received much complimentary feedback. For this we were joined by extra singers from St. John's and from All Saints', Milton. I would particularly like to thank Mark from Milton for playing the organ for us; he has only been playing for just over a year and has become a very accomplished musician.

Report compiled by Michael Williamson

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## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORK

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### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' WORK ON SUNDAYS

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This year Kidschurch has been led by Cheryl Titmus, Jane and Richard Oakes, Kirsty Morris and Holli Bielby, with Sarah Baltensperger joining us as youth worker on placement and working with key stage 2 and 3 children in December. We have had between 15 and 20 children attending most weeks, most of whom are preschool and key stage 1.

The pattern of children's ministry incorporates all age services at Landbeach (first Sunday) and at Waterbeach (third Sunday). On the second and fourth Sundays, Kidschurch meets in the church room, with the children being in church for the first hymn, then rejoining the main congregation at the peace. Children enjoy showing the congregation things they have made and talking about what they have learnt!

Our topics for teaching have followed the lectionary for the year. Our activities have ranged from making instruments to making a clay sheep fold to icing cakes, with plenty of games, songs and stories thrown in!

Report compiled by Kirsty Morris

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### CHILDREN'S WORK BEYOND SUNDAYS

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Volunteers from St John's also supported the Beaches churches together Holiday Club this year organised jointly with the Baptist Church and Salvation Army Church in Waterbeach, which was on the theme of 'Pirates'. Around 65 primary school-aged children attended.

Report compiled by Kirsty Morris

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### CHILDREN'S 'EXPLORE' EVENTS IN 2018

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- The after school 'Explore Easter' and 'Explore Advent' sessions were once again popular events held just before the end of the Spring and Autumn Terms. 60-70 children plus parents were present at each one.
- As usual there were story boards and craft activities telling the story of the main events of these two parts of Jesus' life.
- Refreshments and more activities were available in the Church Room. Thanks to Jane Oaks and Holli Bielby for all their work here.

Report compiled by Ros Wright

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## FOOTSTEPS

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Our Parent & Toddler group - Footsteps - continued to thrive during 2018. We meet on a Monday and Friday during school term time. Footsteps is run by a team of volunteers, which last year was led by Sarah Edwards, Kirsty Morris, Holli Bielby and Tiffany Langton. Footsteps couldn't run without the fantastic support of Hilary Stobart, Alison Maddocks, Kath Temple and Katy Astley helping out in the Kitchen, and the Rev Paul Butler attending regularly and getting to know lots of faces - old and new. We have been able to build up a rapport with the parents who attend, providing a sounding board and a safe non-judgemental space, as well as the all-



important teas and coffees. The parents particularly appreciate our welcoming atmosphere and the quality of our freshly brewed coffee!

We have between 15-20 families attending each session on both a Monday and Friday – with a mix of different families, and also frequently welcoming back parents who attend Footsteps with baby number two, or three. We provide toys, puzzles, arts and crafts, hot drinks for adults and a variety of snacks for the children. We usually finish the sessions with musical instruments and action songs. We are delighted to be able to provide a range of toys and activities, to suit children from newborn to pre-school age. We have been able to purchase new toys as they expire and to continue to provide a variety of stimulating toys for the children. The children especially enjoy using the outdoor space, which is a real bonus for our group to have access to, giving them a chance for water and sand play in the fresh air during the warmer months.

2018 also saw us continue to hold "social" events, for parents to occasionally get together during the evening and chat without the interruption of little people. These have not been quite so well attended this year, attracting around 5 adults each time. Our last social event was hosting a Mulled Wine & Christmas Card making evening in the Winter term, and our next planned event is co-hosting an end-of-term Family BBQ, together with Saturdads, in July.

Report compiled by Holli Bielby

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## SATURDADS

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Saturdads is our Saturday morning stay and play group for Dads, Granddads, male carers and their children. During 2018, we mostly ran bi-monthly Saturdads sessions, with Merlin Tregoin, James Bielby and Rev. Paul Butler leading the group. We have been able to host a monthly session since September 2018, and if we could find a few more volunteers, we could host sessions even more frequently, so do get in touch if you feel like this is something you could get involved with.

Saturdads gives Dads an opportunity to play with their children and also provides a welcoming space to meet other Dads. We continue to provide a range of toys and crafts, alongside teas, coffees and sausage butties.

I'm happy to report that the increase in popularity of the group means we have welcomed an increasing number of families (in addition to our own), and the number of attendees per session has increased too, with between 5-10 families attending each time. The group has been greatly appreciated by the Dads that have attended, and I often have Mums and Dads alike asking me when the next session is!

We end the school year with an end of term BBQ (this year it's on 20th July) alongside families from our Footsteps groups. Please do continue to spread the word about Saturdads wherever you can.

Report compiled by Holli Bielby

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## YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

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In October we were delighted to welcome Sarah Baltensperger who joined us on placement from Ridley Hall. Sarah supports our young people at St John's on a Sunday morning.

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## OUTREACH TO ADULTS

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### PILGRIM GROUP

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Pilgrim was established in the Autumn of 2014 to encourage an identified group of about 5 unchurched people who were sympathetic to Christianity and looking to understand more about the faith. The numbers of the group in the past year dwindle such that we decided to close the group in the Autumn of 2018.

Report compiled by Jane Oakes



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## CRAFT AND CHATTER

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Craft and Chatter was established as a Fresh Expression of Church and commenced just after Easter 2015. It is led by Jane Oakes who is in training at Ridley Hall Cambridge as a Licenced Lay Pioneer Minister. It has a core weekly attendance of 8 – 15 people with a range of age from young mums with children to those in retirement.

Our mission statement:-

“To share God’s love by providing a safe space where everyone feels welcomed and valued and can give and receive through the medium of creativity in arts”

We are supplying a weekly craft group on a Thursday morning for 2 hours where people can bring their own craft projects or undertake projects through resources provided by the group. We are exploring ideas of crafts to raise money for charities/provide items for our local neo natal unit for early babies or those who die before or at birth (angel babies)

We are providing generous hospitality and resources as a token of God’s abundant provision for us. During the session we are providing a “Word for the Week” with Bible passage and provision for discussion. We have a prayer table will opportunity to write prayers to be shared/light a candle.

The aim is to grow community, share our stories lives and faith. The group is an open group and all are welcome. It is particularly aimed at local people who are not a member of our or any church

Report compiled by Jane Oakes

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## LUNCH CLUB

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Lunch club has had another busy and successful year. In January, we welcomed Jackie Dean to help with cooking the lunches and a band of willing helpers (mostly members of the WI) has assisted us during the year in laying tables, welcoming our guests, serving food and washing up. Two helpers also collect guests by car and bring them to the club. I would like to thank all of them for their help in making the lunches run so smoothly.

The number of people attending our lunches has fluctuated between 18 and 27 in number, although we can accommodate 32 so are always happy to welcome new members. Most of those attending are not regular members of our congregation so Lunch Club is very much part of our Outreach programme. The cost of a lunch is £3.50 and will remain at this price for the coming year. All our produce is freshly bought and where possible, locally. We aim to use fruit and vegetables that are in season and our menus are traditional but varied.

Report compiled by Sheila Lynn

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## MAKING SENSE EVENINGS

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We continued our Sunday evening *Making Sense* series in 2018 with continued excellent attendance including many people from outside the parish. The purpose of Making Sense is to develop our biblical literacy, discover the ‘Big Picture’ of the Bible and provide transformational encounter with the biblical texts they goes beyond solely intellectual engagement; we also established a learning community where we can grow in our faith and discipleship. We were privileged to host scholars with a national and international reputation in theology and biblical studies. The speakers and topics in 2018 included those listed below and we are looking forward to further developing these events in 2019:

Dr Alison Gray, Westminster College, Cambridge: *Making Sense of Job*

Dr Stephen Backhouse, Director of Tent Theology **Making Sense of...Philippians**

Joshua Harris, Fellow of the Westminster Abbey Institute, and Associate of the Institute for Government: **Making Sense of the Church and Politics**

Revd Dr Matthias Grebe, Advisor for European Church Relations for the Council for Christian Unity at Church House: **Making Sense of...the Death of Christ**

Revd Professor Steve Walton, Associate Research Fellow of Trinity College, Bristol: **Making Sense of...Luke**

Revd Dr. Rob McDonald, Ridley Hall: **Making Sense of...the Holy Spirit**

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## OTHER GROUPS AND CONCERNS

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### FAIRTRADE AND THE SREEPUR VILLAGE, BANGLADESH

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#### Fairtrade

- St John's is registered as a Fairtrade church and tries to use Fairtrade products wherever possible
- Traidcraft groceries such as tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits are used at church groups and for church hospitality.
- The congregation can purchase fairtrade goods including coffee, tea, sugar, biscuits and chocolate after Sunday services.
- Fairtrade Advent calendars and Easter Eggs can be ordered.
- Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than the market price), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

#### The Sreepur Village, Bangladesh

- The Sreepur village was established in 1989 in the belief that poverty should not separate mothers from their children and that by empowering women and educating their children they can gain an independent and sustainable quality of life.
- The village is located on a 30-acre site north of Dhaka.
- In 2018 The Sreepur Village provided a home to 160 destitute mothers and their 350 children.
- 212 children went to school, 162 attended the Sreepur Village school and 50 attended school outside of the project.
- 64 mothers and their 128 children were helped to move out of the project and reintegrate into their communities.
- The Sreepur Village continues to provide outreach work with the street children of Dhaka.

Report compiled by Dorothy Druitt

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## THE MELANESIAN MISSION

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The Anglican Church of Melanesia works in three countries - the Solomon Islands, the Republic of Vanuatu and the French Territory of New Caledonia. It has nine dioceses, seven of them in the Solomon Islands, where the Archbishop is also Bishop of the Diocese of Central Melanesia. Archbishop George Takeli visited Waterbeach in 2017 and he stayed with me. He addressed the PCC and also a meeting of people from parishes in this area. He has just announced that he is about to resign to stand for his home constituency in the coming national election. His replacement as Archbishop will be elected later in the year.

Some of the clergy were among the more highly educated people at the time of political Independence in the Solomon Islands in 1978, and in the New Hebrides (which became the Republic of Vanuatu) in 1980, and a few of them became involved in national politics. The first Prime Minister of Vanuatu was an Anglican priest. The Archbishop has stated that he believes that better leadership is required in politics, as in both countries it has been marred by corruption from time to time. The Vildam family into which I have been informally adopted is also concerned about the lack of women in national politics, and Timothy Vildam, who stayed with me in 2011, is

supporting his cousin's widow as she stands for election in the part of the country from which they both come. Our prayers are needed for the overcoming of corruption and the greater involvement of women in national affairs in both Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. In New Caledonia a referendum was held recently to determine whether the territory should gain political Independence, but the majority voted to remain with France. Unlike the other two countries, it has a significant minority of white people who have settled there.

The whole region is prone to suffer from national disasters. In the Solomon Islands there has been significant flooding which has destroyed the food gardens on which many people depend. This has affected the Anglican Religious Orders who have their own gardens, and food is having to be supplied to them until their gardens can recover, which will take some time. In Vanuatu, the island of Ambae has been devastated by the eruption of its main volcano, and the Government has ordered its complete evacuation. Other islands have received the refugees who have had to flee. This has deeply affected the Diocese of Vanuatu and New Caledonia, which had had its main secondary school on the island, and also an important Training Centre. The Melanesian Brotherhood has had to move its Regional Headquarters and Novitiate and rebuild on another island further north. The people do not know if or when they may be able to return home.

The money Waterbeach parish gives each year to support the Melanesian Mission (UK) helps with the general support of the work of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, as it makes an annual grant to the Province and sometimes launches special appeals to respond to natural disasters. It is also involved with schemes to deal with climate change which is affecting many of the islands. The support given by people in the UK in prayer, finance and specialist advice is greatly appreciated by our fellow Christians in the Pacific islands.

Report compiled by Brian Macdonald-Milne (Honorary Canon of the Provincial Cathedral of St Barnabas, Honiara Solomon Islands)

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## WATERBEACH MOTHERS' UNION

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2018 has seen our Mothers' Union branch take a break, as despite trying to "mix things up" last year to increase accessibility of meetings, we were still experiencing low (and sometimes No) attendance at meetings. Unfortunately, as a result of this, Holli and Ingrid have struggled to keep the group running, and are instead encouraging all our members to join up as Diocesan members. We hope to retain some of our projects going forward; including the preparation and presentation of Baptism boxes; welcome bags for Maple Court; Twiddlemuffs for Elderly Care ward at Addenbrookes (together with the WI and Wives groups); and retaining our links with Footsteps and Saturdads. We have also continued to be able to help a number of new arrivals at Maple Court, with our members donating clothes, kitchenware and linen as and when it is needed.

We do hope that current, former, and new members will continue to support the Mothers' Union, through a Diocesan membership: being a member of the Mothers' Union for us is not about turning up to a meeting every month. It's a public acknowledgement that we share the same values with the other men and women of our Union, locally and globally. It is about knowing that these people will be people of action who will step up to promote stable family life, share the love of God and try to help people who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Report compiled by Holli Bielby

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## FLOWER GUILD 2018

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We have experienced a very quiet year in 2018 with only one wedding.

We have arranged for the usual festivals and my small number of ladies has diligently provided flowers on a weekly basis, for which I thank them all sincerely.

2019 looks like being another quiet year with only one of the 3 weddings requiring any flowers.

Weddings provide the majority of income towards funding the flowers for the festivals throughout the year. I already ask for donations towards Easter lilies and this usually is just enough to cover Easter.

Your ideas as to how we can reliably continue decorating the church with flowers on a weekly basis with a dwindling income would be greatly appreciated.

Report compiled by Chris Armstrong

## THE FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S

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- Our 2018 AGM was held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May followed by a Songs of Praise service and dinner, with a talk by David Craig on the connections of the Fairhaven family of Anglesey Abbey and Fairhaven in Canada.
- The twice yearly newsletter and the Christmas card were sent to members as usual.
- Our only project continues to be the restoration of the Kempe window in the tower.
- Further to this, all appropriate faculties (thanks to the PCC and Church Wardens for facilitating this), permissions and agreements were applied for and passed and arrangements made for the work to commence.  
The Kempe Society have very generously agreed to donate a substantial sum of money which, along with any money raised by ourselves, will ensure the work can be completed. It is now hoped that the work can be completed before the next Friends AGM in 2019
- The 2019 AGM and Dinner will take place on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Report compiled by Ros Wright

## WATERBEACH WIVES

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It is hard to believe that we have been meeting twice a month for well over 30 years, and long may it continue.

Our numbers have fallen, people move away and various other reasons, we had the pleasure of welcoming two new members last year and we now have 23 ladies. We have a varied and interesting programme arranged by two of our members.

Our charity this year is Cruse Bereavement Care. The money will go towards helping train volunteers to be there for people at a time when they need care and support.

Report compiled by Sheila Gill

## LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

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Living With Integrity is a community forum for Social Justice, Environment and Sustainability which meets formally at St John's and occasionally at other venues. The Living With Integrity Group continues to meet irregularly and infrequently! The members of the group recognise their appreciation of occasional, informal but focussed opportunities to discuss some of the most pressing issues in our everyday lives: climate change, injustice and sustainable energy being 3 issues we discuss often. For the time being, at least, it is the group's intention to meet termly, over a shared breakfast. If an appropriate event to publicly highlight one of our core aims presents itself, we will convene a small group to organise it.

Report compiled by Pam Thorn

## BENEFICE LINK WITH THE R.C. PARISH OF ST GILLES, AVRILLE IN ANJOU, FRANCE

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The last year has been significant in the link between the five Fen Edge Villages of Landbeach, Waterbeach, Cottenham, Willingham and Rampton with the town of Avrillé near Angers, the historic capital of Anjou. Last May, people from these villages and from the town of Schwalbach in Germany gathered at Avrillé to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the German twinning and the 20th anniversary of the English one, with the French. Arising from this civic twinning two Church twinings have developed with the RC parish of St Gilles, one with the RC parish of Schwalbach and the other with the Anglican parishes of Waterbeach and Landbeach. The link with our benefice may have been encouraged by the ecumenical celebrations of Holy Communion in which some of the French visitors joined during their biennial visits to the Fen Edge Villages, which have been held over the years in Landbeach and Waterbeach Parish Churches, if the French have been here on a Sunday.

The civic and ecclesiastical twinings were celebrated by an Ecumenical Mass in St Gilles in May, at which I shared in the celebration at the altar with the then parish priest, who was from Senegal. He is being replaced this year by another African priest, from Congo Brazzaville. It is not unusual these days for African priests to serve in RC parishes on the Continent, largely because of the lack of priests, especially in France. Members of various denominations, including German Roman Catholics and Lutherans and an Anglican, read lessons, led some singing and the intercessions. They also assisted with the distribution of the Sacrament to all communicants

present, in a way that had never been experienced before by many who were there. Some found it a deeply moving experience. I had the privilege of preaching the sermon, and did so in three sections -in French, German and English. I had to brush up my school German for the occasion, with the help of a German lady resident in Waterbeach. The French paid a return visit in November to the Fen Edge Villages to mark the special anniversary, and a group from the Fen Edge Villages will be making another visit in May this year to Avrillé, which will restore the normal pattern of biennial visits.

Any who would like to join the group going this year can get further information from me or from Julia Gwilt, the Secretary of the local Twinning Committee, whose email address I can supply on request.

Report compiled by Brian Macdonald-Milne

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

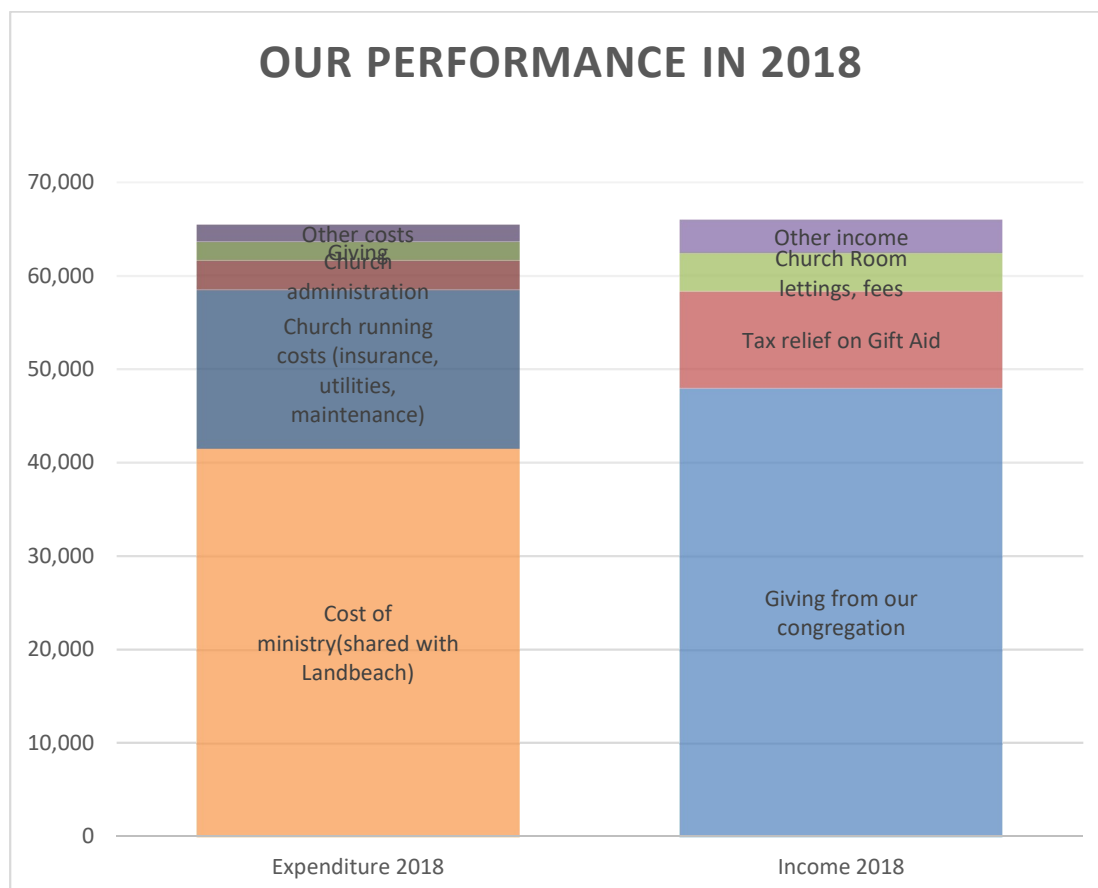
### SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This is a summary of the financial position of the PCC for the year. It has been prepared from the full accounts which are available on request.

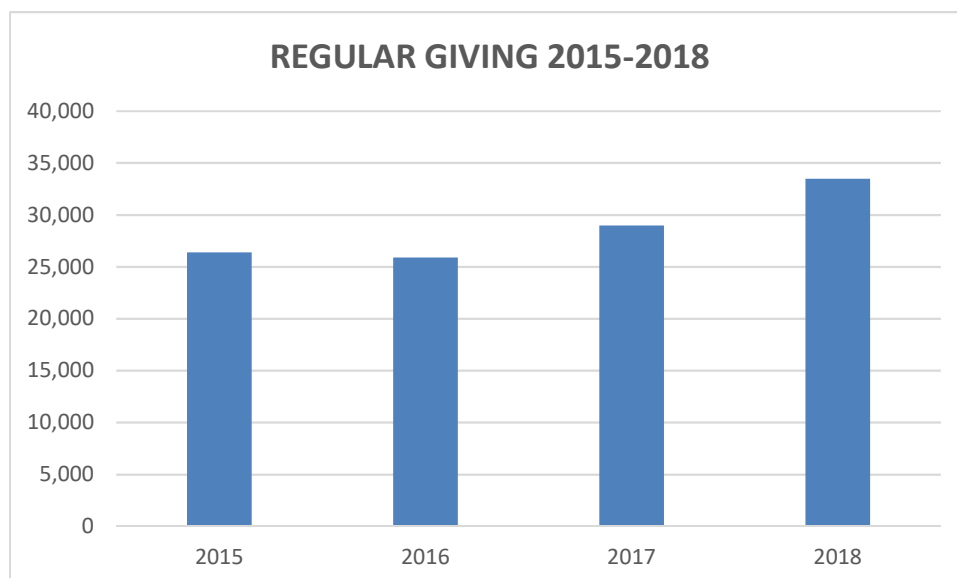
The funds of the PCC comprise the General Fund which covers the day-to-day running of the church. The income comes mainly from donations by members of the congregation and is supplemented by other income such as fees for weddings and funerals and income from letting of the church room.

The main item of expenditure from this fund is the ministry share which is our contribution to the costs of ministry in the parish. Other items of expenditure include church insurance, heating and lighting costs, and regular maintenance of the fabric of the church. As a matter of policy we also make donations to external charities and this year we have donated a total of £2,001 to the Amos Trust, Sreepur Village and the Melanesian Mission.

In 2018 our total general fund income was £65,960 and the expenditure was £65,397 resulting in a small surplus on that fund. The breakdown of this income and expenditure is shown below and full details can be found in notes 2 and 3 of the full accounts.



What is apparent is how much we rely upon the generosity of our congregations and especially on those who give regularly. Since 2015 this has increased by 28% as illustrated by the chart below



We are very grateful to all who give by standing order, envelopes and through the Parish Giving Scheme.

Besides the General Fund, the church has a number of other funds which often can only be spent on particular things. Some of these come from outside endowments, two of which are the Sunday School Fund (which does not directly appear in our accounts) and the Cup Trust which provides income which we use to support WAY (Waterbeach and Landbeach Actions for Youth). The income from the Sunday School fund comes in to support our Education and Training activities. Full details of all of these funds can be found in Note 10 of our full accounts.

Finally, I should like to thank Katy Astley who has taken on the responsibility of Stewardship Officer and keeps a close eye on all of our giving.

Report compiled by Michael Williamson

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## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees (who are the members of the PCC) to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards and Statements of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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## USE OF VOLUNTEERS

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The text of this report shows just how much the church is dependent upon volunteers for its work. This is a matter that cannot be quantified with any degree of certainty.

## INVESTMENT POLICY

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Some funds that are held for long term purposes are held as shares in the appropriate CBF funds. Other cash deposits are placed in CBF deposit accounts.

## GRANT-MAKING POLICY

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The church, via the income from the Cup Trust, supports the work of Waterbeach and Landbeach Action for Youth.

In 2018, in addition to our support of the Children's Society from collections at Christmas and of the Royal British Legion at the service on Remembrance Sunday, we gave a total of £2,000 to three charities – The Amos Trust, the Melanesian Mission and Sreepur Village. It is the intention of the PCC to increase this total sum in the future once income permits.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

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The PCC is aware of the risks involved in its operation and takes appropriate steps to minimise them. In particular, it has a well-developed policy for dealing with children and vulnerable adults.

## RESERVES POLICY

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Because of the substantial support available to the PCC from the Ecclesiastical Charity, the PCC does not seek to maintain significant reserves. Any funds temporarily in surplus are generally earmarked for future use. It is the policy of the PCC to invest any surplus balances with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 2019