



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**For year ending 31st December 2017**

**(As required by Church Accounting Regulations 2006)**

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES  
ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

**Table of Contents**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**AIMS AND PURPOSES**

**1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

- a. Rector's report
- b. Church Electoral Roll
- c. PCC
- d. Abingdon Deanery Synod
- e. Oxford Diocesan Synod
- f. Safeguarding

**2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

**3 PROPERTY**

**4 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC**

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is a registered charity, Charity Registration Number 1129833.

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is situated in the town of Abingdon, Oxfordshire. It is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is:

The Hon Secretary, Abingdon-on-Thames PCC  
c/o The Church Centre  
St Helen's Court  
Abingdon OX14 5BS

The Parish comprises the churches and congregations of St Helen, St Michael & All Angels and St Nicolas.

**PCC members**

PCC members are the Trustees of the Charity. PCC members who have served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 until the date that this report and the financial statements were approved are:

**Stipendiary Team clergy:**

The Revd Dr E C Miller  
The Revd P Smith

**Non-stipendiary clergy:**

The Revd Dr J Baun  
The Revd M Williamson (house for duty)

**Churchwardens:**

Dr C N P Gee  
Mrs L Hobbs  
Mr P Squire (from 30.06.2017)  
Mr P Rast-Lindsell  
Mrs E Hallas (to 30.06.2017)  
Mr A Coker (from 30.06.2017)

**Officers:**

Chairman	The Revd Dr E C Miller
Vice Chairman	Miss A E Green
Secretary	Ms E McElhatton
Treasurer	Dr A R Birks

**Representatives on the Deanery Synod:**

Dr A R Birks  
Dr P Cannon-Brookes (to 18.04.2017)  
Mr P Penfold (from 18.04.2017)  
Miss A E Green  
Dr H Glennie  
Ms A Scott (from 18.04.2017)  
Ms S Scott  
Mrs E Hallas

**Diocesan Synod:**

Mrs C Worthington

**Elected PCC members:**

Dr H Bishop  
Mr J Burren (to 31.05.2017)  
Mrs P Burren (to 31.05.2017)  
Mr J Clare  
Mrs H Clare  
Mrs J Collins  
Mrs S Scott

**Auditors:**

Wenn Townsend  
Victoria House  
10 Broad Street  
Abingdon OX14 3LH

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

***AIMS AND PURPOSES***

Under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Dr Charles Miller, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Each DCC is similarly required to co-operate with the minister in charge of the district church. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Parish Centre (in St Helen's Court) and Enock House (2 Musson Close).

***1 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE***

***1a Rector's Report [Charles Miller]***

**Introduction**

2017 has been an eventful year in various ways, and the parish as a whole has shown its mettle especially in response to the unexpected events of the year. My own sudden absence as a result of an unpredictable cardiac arrest in early July, and then serious complications ensuing in early August, meant that the parish functioned without my regular or direct leadership for four months. I commend all those, especially clergy and wardens, for their 'rapid response' in arranging meetings where issues could be discussed and decisions taken to ensure the smooth running of the parish and its congregations. Several clergy already in the parish, but who had not yet felt able to share in the service rota, stepped forward, and that, together with everyone's willingness to put 'shoulder to the plough', provided a weighty ballast as the weeks and months went by. Medical issues then overtook the Team Vicar, Paul Smith in October; by then, though, I was able to begin to step back into the stream in my customary role. In the course of all the 'changes and chances of this life' the clergy team of Vicar and Associates formed a good bond of mutual, helpful, indeed enriching support. I say a special word of "Thank You" to Paul, Mary and Jane!

**Through the Year**

In early 2017 discussion began with Associate Priest Jane Baun about her sabbatical from teaching responsibilities at Ripon College Cuddesdon. After discussion I decided that it would be appropriate for Jane to have coeval leave from her parish duties so that she could make the most of her sabbatical time. I asked Abingdon-on-Thames PCC to contribute £500 toward Jane's plans, which she very much appreciated. The practical consequence was that she was away from the parish from Easter Week until early July. We missed her energetic input, of course, but, again, people were flexible in covering for her. St Nicolas' probably felt her absence most; but others stepped into the breach to take things forward.

The clergy began discussion in their weekly chapter meeting of a parish Confirmation policy. We all agreed that this was important in light of diverse understandings of the place and purpose of Confirmation in the contemporary pastoral scene of the Church of England generally, and in light of the long-standing practice of First Communion in this parish. We have made only sluggish progress on a policy, so, when matters are fully drafted in 2018, we shall bring that to the PCC for discussion and (no pun intended) confirmation.

Having mentioned First Communion, we learned in 2017 that the CoE requires that we have a special register for First Communions. Registers are available from Church House Publishing at a modest cost. It would be a *parish* register in which First Communion admissions in each

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

congregation would be registered. It would be sensible to articulate our policy in this regard too as a part of the pastoral approach to Confirmation. The work, anyway, has begun.

Our parish extended its outreach in a new way with the first of its WINDOW Publications, *The Magnitude of Meekness. Christmas for Twelve Days*. I hope it helped many of you through Christmastide, and gave you a good excuse for sharing the Christmas message with family, friends, and beyond. Our distribution was (on a small scale) global; the book sold out; and it left a solid chunk on the profit side of the WINDOW balance sheet. I thank the PCC for its permission to use the 'Window' imprint, and Alexandra Green and our administrative team for its practical support.

Outreach to the parish at Christmas and Easter built on previous years, and the respective leaflets designed by Rachel Shearer and delivered door-to-door to 4000 houses in the parish by a team headed up by Fiona Tonks with assistance from Margaret Horton and the office is an impressive effort by all involved.

The work of the PCC went on during the period of my absence. Under the able chairmanship of Alexandra Green, to whom we owe a special debt, business was taken forward with the group of wardens elected at last year's APCM and the other PCC members. The elected PCC membership did not reach its full quota in 2017 (nor has it for a number of years), and it is my hope that we can rectify that in the elections of 2018.

Since the division of the parish in 2013 our work of drafting a new 'constitution' for the running of our parish and team has been lacking. The reasons for this are numerous, but, as a few members of the PCC Standing Committee, have pointed out, it is work we ought to do. I think the biggest single issue in relation to that discussion is the working relationship between the three congregations. Perspectives within our midst from other teams has highlighted to me the extent to which we continue in ways rather isolated from one another. In five areas this seems apparent to me:

1. The work of the wardens, who are *parish* wardens first and all; they will all benefit from more shared discussion, planning and working;
2. The work of treasurers. It has been recommended that effort and cost can be more effectively addressed by financial reporting in the three congregations using shared software; that would allow, for instance, quarterly reports to the PCC of the financial situation of each congregation on a like-for-like basis. It would greatly help the PCC exercise its fiduciary responsibility for the financial life of the parish.
3. Communication between and from the congregations needs to be enhanced. This is partly a matter of *consistency*, and partly a matter of *how* and *when*. Our parish logos need to be more consistently and widely used, as they send a message to our community about who we are, both as a single parish, and as congregations each with its own style. The value of 'immediate recognition' shouldn't be under-estimated.
4. Programmes throughout the parish need to be discussed and planned in a way that includes the PCC. I firmly think that all local programmes can be better advertised and attended if we all think together, think ahead, and advertise in a joined-up, coherent way both within our parish and town, and throughout the deanery and diocese. This is an instance where "Better Together" really is the strap-line.
5. More broadly still, the development and evaluation of Mission Action Plans, required by the diocese, ought to involve the PCC from start to finish. Obviously, input from each congregation and its DCC is vital, but a single parish needs a single over-arching strategy if local MAPS are tactically to contribute purposefully to our parish's goals.

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

Moving forward on these points will take time. I hope it underlines though, the important plan our PCC needs to assume in our common life. With that kind of horizon ahead, I hope that we can move beyond standing habits into more mutually up-building ones.

Looking ahead (briefly)

Just before Christmas 2017 we bid a temporary ‘Godspeed’ to Bp Henry and Catherine Scriven. Having retired from his ministry at CMS in Oxford, Bp Henry and Catherine left for a six-month ministry opportunity in Bangkok, Thailand, where they have family living. We miss them, of course, and look forward to their return in the summer. Bp Henry plans to resume participation in our parish’s life and work in September of this new calendar year. Keep them both in your prayers through this time away.

I quoted above one of the phrases from a Prayer Book Collect—the “changes and chances of this life”. During her sabbatical Jane Baun was asked by me to think deeply about the shape of her current ministerial and teaching duties. (Sabbaticals are unique opportunities for just that kind of reflection.) Over the months since Jane continued that discernment. When we met in February of 2018 Jane shared her intention to lay down her ministry as ‘Associate Priest’ in our Parish at the end of June 2018. We will, of course, miss Jane, and will want to mark her eight-year sojourn with us in a suitable way. Until then, it’s ‘business as usual’ throughout the parish for Jane, so enjoy!

In contrast, others in our midst are coming forward to re-engage in ministry, so, in different ways, and with varied personalities, we continue to be richly blessed in so many ways. When church life is frustrating or disappointing or tiring, look at our situation in regard to the rest of the world; there really is reason for ‘giving thanks at all times’ (1 Thessalonians 5.18).

***1b Church Electoral Roll [Richard Kirby]***

There is a Parish Electoral Roll Officer for Abingdon-on-Thames, but each of the three churches in the parish maintains a section of the Roll. The table below gives the changes from 2016 to 2017 for the three churches in the Parish.

	Numbers on Roll at March:	
	2017	2016
St Helen	344	340
St Michael	88	87
St Nicolas	70	68
<b>Totals</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>495</b>

***1c PCC [Erin McElhatton]***

The PCC of the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames met five times during 2017, early 2018 and discussed the following topics:

- Review of the Pastoral Scheme governing DCC
- Report from the New Housing Welcome Group
- Energy Audit
- Data Protection Policy

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

Additional topics of discussion by the PCC meeting at the three churches in turn during 2017 included the appointment of Dr Peter Foster as Director of Music and the appointment of an independent examiner/auditor for the Abingdon-on-Thames pss..

At the November meeting a Safeguarding Report was given by Maria Gibson and the Safeguarding Policy was reviewed. During this meeting Dr A R Birks, Parish Treasurer, also presented the provisional forecasts for 2017 and the proposed budgets for the three churches (St Helen's, St Michael's and St Nicolas') for 2018.

Routine business included reports from churches, reports from the Deanery Synod, the approval of faculty applications, and the correspondence/communications between congregations, clergy and church leadership, as well as by the churches and their wider communities.

Consideration of the finances of the Parish remains a regular item on the PCC and Standing Committee agendas.

***Id Abingdon Deanery Synod [Carol Worthington]***

Abingdon Deanery Synod meets four times a year on a Thursday evening, usually in February, June, September and November. Meetings are hosted voluntarily by individual churches within the Deanery, who are all entitled to send both clergy and lay representatives to Synod. In our parish of Abingdon on Thames, we are well represented, with eight lay members, two of whom serve on the Standing Committee, where we also have a clergy member: details are given later.

Synod meetings follow a similar pattern:

- Opening worship
- Speaker or presentation on a topic of common interest
- Business, usually concerning items such as clergy changes in parishes and financial matters, particularly the Parish Share (every church's contribution to the communal 'pot' to pay for salaries of clergy and other church employees). The Abingdon Deanery also sets aside money for Mission Grants, which parishes can apply for to help with outreach to the local community.
- News from individual parishes is circulated, often about successes in particular outreach initiatives supporting the Deanery Mission Action Plan (MAP), to which all parishes contribute.
- The meetings always conclude with prayer.

2017 was a year when many changes took place, following the resignations of the Area Dean, Lay Chair and several members of the standing committee, including treasurer and secretary, at the end of 2016. The first meeting in February, therefore, started on a sombre note, but was immensely cheered by the visiting speaker, the Venerable Archdeacon Judy French, who gave an entertaining description of 'What does an Archdeacon really do?', summing up that she is a servant of servants and her role is to serve God and the people.

We were further cheered when the new treasurer confirmed that the Deanery goals and targets for the 2016 Parish Share had been met, - and the new acting secretary was introduced! Thanks were given for answered prayers and there was a feeling of optimism for the future, particularly the upcoming Deanery Away-Day.

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

The Deanery Away day on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 had been planned so that the Deanery Mission Action Plan could be evaluated and updated. It was a well-attended and successful day, in which missional priorities were intensely debated: finally, five key priorities were arrived at:

1. Developing work with children and young people.
2. Engaging with people in new housing developments.
3. Offering ways for communities to experience the church.
4. Developing our work with elderly people and vulnerable adults.
5. Deepening our life with God.

At the June meeting, the new parish representatives were introduced, and the new Lay Chair, Secretary and Standing Committee were elected; the new MAP priorities were accepted and adopted. With so many parishes affected by new housing developments, the presentation was given by speakers from Long Furlong church, who told the history of how they had ‘planted’ that church from Christchurch in the early 1990’s, when the Long Furlong housing development was under construction. With MAP priority number 2 in mind, this proved to be a fascinating story, and one to be kept in mind by parishes currently facing a similar situation with new housing developments.

This meeting turned out to be a turning point in the fortunes of the Deanery Synod. The new secretary completely re-organised and revitalised the website and the new Area Dean, Lay Chair and Standing Committee became very pro-active in leadership, being helped by up to date communications to avoid unnecessary delay in making decisions. Parishes are being encouraged to apply for mission grants to support community projects based on the MAP priorities. One has recently been used at St Helen’s to help fund the setting up of ‘Open the Book’ assemblies in a parish school.

The development of work with elderly people and vulnerable adults has also been boosted by the expertise of the Revd Mary Williamson at St Helen’s, who led the presentation at the November meeting, assisted by three members of our parish; this was very well received.

The MAP is becoming a focus for future development in the Deanery Synod and much good work is going on, in outreach to local communities. There is also good news about the Parish Share—there was a surplus last year and every parish is eligible for a rebate! With future finances in mind, the Standing Committee planned a presentation about a new scheme for parish giving for the first meeting in 2018.

If anyone wishes to know about the activities of the Deanery Synod in more depth, look on the website: [www.abingdondeanery.org.uk](http://www.abingdondeanery.org.uk). Or, ask one of the parish representatives:

St Helen’s: Hazel Glennie, Alexandra Green, Peter Penfold, Carol Worthington

St Michael’s: Alexandra Scott, Sue Scott

St Nicolas’: Andrew Birks, Eluned Hallas

Mary, Carol and Sue are on the Standing Committee.

***1e Oxford Diocesan Synod [Carol Worthington]***

The Diocesan Synod meets three times a year, on a Saturday morning, in March, June and November, at St Andrew’s church in High Wycombe. It is a large gathering; usually 100 to 150 clergy and lay members. It is the custom for the Bishop of Oxford to preside over the meeting.

The meetings require intense concentration, starting at 9.00am, and, hopefully, finishing by 1.00pm. There is a lot of business to get through, but the administration is very efficient, and things tend to



**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

go very smoothly. They run to a similar pattern: opening prayers and devotions, Bishop's welcome and Presidential Address, Diocesan and Deanery business; news from General Synod, followed by a guest speaker, presentation or a group discussion.

There is always some Finance Committee business to be done, in for example, Annual Reports and Accounts of bodies such as Christ Church Cathedral and the Diocesan Board of Education. The Chair of the Board of Finance presents the Diocesan Budget in both draft and final forms at successive meetings, important because of the setting of the Parish shares, so there is often lively debate! Meetings end with a reflection on the morning's business and closing prayers.

Bishop Steven's first presidential address in March was 'On Fragmentation'. He started with '*they have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying "Peace, peace" where there is no peace*' (Jeremiah 8.11). All those called to leadership in society and the church need to pay careful attention to the wounds of God's people in the dreadful humanitarian crises facing the world. Bishop Steven asked us all to give generously to emergency disaster appeals for the terrible famine stretching across Africa from Nigeria to Yemen through Somalia and Sudan.

In his second address in June, he introduced the session 'Towards a Common Vision' by reflecting on the recent tragedies at Grenfell Towers and the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London. Drawing on the profound message in 2 Corinthians 4 '*We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.*'

We were asked to explore together in groups our calling as a church, asking two questions.

- What kind of a Church are we called to be?

***Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous***

- What are we therefore called to do together?

The feedback from these groups indicated there was more work to be done, so this was carried over into the next Synod in November. The initial responses had been sorted into the following six key areas. We were asked to choose a group, individually write **one hope** and **one question**, then develop a joint question for reflection in our working group.

- To make a bigger difference in the world and serve the poor
- To share our faith with adults, children and young people and grow the local church in every place: rural, urban and suburban
- To plant new churches and congregations everywhere we can
- To serve every school in our community
- To put the discipleship of all at the heart of our common life and ***set God's people free***
- To celebrate and bless the largest, fastest growing city in the Diocese: Milton Keynes

**Setting God's People Free (SGPF)** is a Church of England programme of change to enable the whole people of God, both ordained and lay, to live out the Good News of Jesus confidently in all of life, Monday to Saturday as well as Sunday. In short, it aims to enable all of us to become disciples, to '*affirm and enable the complementary roles and vocations of clergy and lay people, grounded in our common baptism*'. We are asked to use imaginative steps to '*nourish, illuminate and connect*' what is already working in parishes and communities of faith. A question was asked at the June meeting about the possibility of Oxford becoming a pilot diocese for SGPF, following significant interest amongst synod members. The Diocesan secretary responded that the first tranche is full, but we expect to join the second learning group in 2018.

# PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

## Annual Report (Continued)

### FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017

Further reports from the General Synod in 2017 included on-going discussions about the House of Bishops' report on Marriage and Sexuality. The progress of a resolution put forward by High Wycombe Deanery, *inviting the Archbishops to initiate a review into the consideration of alternative methods of appointment for diocesan bishops* was queried; it was said to be waiting its turn with the business committee. In the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of the Reformation, there was a debate about mutual understanding and reconciliation between churches, and the ability to share the gospel of salvation with all the world.

Archbishop Justin's Presidential General Synod Address gave a key message:

***'We cannot ever forget that as Christians we are a cross-shaped people We are to carry the cross as we follow. We are to be publicly, openly and convincingly those who are Christians'***

Anyone wishing to know more about the Diocesan Synod is directed to the website:

[www.oxford.anglican.org](http://www.oxford.anglican.org)

## **1f Safeguarding [Maria Gibson, Parish Verifier]**

I took over the role as Safeguarding officer for St Helen's from Judith Hosking in summer 2014 with a deep understanding of the responsibilities that the role demands. In autumn 2015 I took over the role as DBS Verifier from Roland Knight. I am now the official Verifier for the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames which includes the churches of St Helen's, St Michael's and St Nicolas'.

The role of Verifier includes checking IDs of applicants within the parish and securing personal profiles and applications on the umbrella body agency database, ready to be processed and checked at the agency's end. The Parish Safeguarding Officers are:

St Helen's – Maria Gibson;  
St Michaels – Carol Bowman;  
St Nicolas' – Katie Doney.

The Diocese informed us that the Church Agency for Safeguarding (CAS), the umbrella body for obtaining DBS checks since 2010, is unable to carry on offering their service. Another provider has been appointed as the DBS umbrella body by the Diocese: it is *Access Personal Checking Services Ltd (APCS)* who have been fully operational since 15<sup>th</sup> September. In 2017 we had 3 applicants under the CAS system and 4 under the new APCS system.

A new group has been formed within St Helen's Church, *Open the Book*. Members will be visiting children at St Nicolas' school during assemblies with Bible stories and fun activities related to the stories.

*Junior Church* group at St Helen's is very healthy and full of joyful and energetic children who love stories and activities; thanks to the leaders and helpers who make this group a very caring and safe place for children. *Quest* is a small group of older children who meet to reflect on the weekly lessons under the supervision of two members of the congregation. It is also a healthy and caring group which provides a calm and quiet atmosphere.

## **2 STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames is served by a Team Rector, based at St Helen's, and a Team Vicar shared between St Nicolas' and St Michael's.

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

Abingdon has a Local Ecumenical Project – the Church in Abingdon (CiA) – to which all the Anglican churches belong.

The Parochial Church Council of Abingdon-on-Thames is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure, and was formally registered with the Charity Commission on 27 May 2009.

Lay members of the PCC are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Church Representation Rules, as originally authorized as Schedule 3 to the Synodical Government Measure 1969 and subsequently amended by the General Synod. All eligible church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

In addition to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the parish of Abingdon-on-Thames, there are three District Church Councils (DCCs). The PCC has delegated to the DCCs responsibility for detailed implementation of most of its functions, in a continuation of a Scheme approved by the Bishop. The PCC is therefore able to concentrate on those matters which cannot be delegated, or are of common concern. It has only two committees:

The *Standing Committee* (comprising the team clergy, church wardens, the secretary, the treasurer, and the vice-chairman) has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC.

The *Finance Committee* (comprising the Parish Treasurer and the Treasurers of the DCCs) oversees the financial activities of the parish, and prepares the annual budget and financial statements for the parish. It meets as required. The budget and financial statements are approved by the PCC after individual church finances have been considered by individual DCCs.

PCC members (and DCC members) are encouraged to attend training sessions as appropriate. Most often these are courses organised by the Diocese of Oxford.

The PCC is exposed to risks associated with buildings, finances and availability of volunteer effort. Dealing with the secular aspects first: buildings are insured and regularly inspected, finances are managed by the parish treasurer, and DCC treasurers and volunteers are constantly sought to carry the administrative burden of the PCC and DCCs. The maintenance of ancient buildings is a heavy responsibility for the PCC, but this is not unusual in the Church of England. Health and Safety, Child Protection and other pertinent legislation is adhered to, and there are policies in place to this effect. DCCs operate within a budget and financial envelope determined by their annual income and reserves and approved by the PCC. Each church has an annual stewardship programme to invite donors to respond to the income targets. Special appeals are launched for special projects (typically capital projects) as appropriate. To say ‘The Lord will provide’ may not be an acceptable approach to financial risk management in the secular world; but seeking the Will of God through constant prayer and responding to His Will moment by moment are key instruments by which the PCC manages risk in labour and financial matters.

### **3     *PROPERTY***

*Report by Linda Hobbs*

The property 2, Musson Close, Abingdon has been the home of our associate priest (house for duty) the Reverend Mary Williamson since October 2016. The property is a 3-storey town house situated in south Abingdon approximately 10 minutes’ walk from St Helen’s Church. As associate priest, the house is for the use of Mary Williamson for the duration of her Licence.

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

The property is required to be maintained in the same way as if it were subject to a normal tenancy agreement. There is the requirement for the property to be returned to the Church at the end of Mary's period of license.

As reported in the previous report no rent, water rates, insurance or council tax are liable to be paid by the incumbent; all costs are met by church funds. Any additional costs for maintenance and repairs are also paid directly by the church, including any costs claimed by the Associate Priest required to fulfil the post.

During the last year, costs in respect of maintaining the property have been minimal. Each year, legally when a property is tenanted, an annual Gas Safety certificate must be obtained. Additionally, there was a minor repair to the bathroom fittings. The largest cost associated with the property was replacement of a small garden shed. The shed was purchased, assembled and the old one disposed of, at a cost of less than £200, additionally a replacement lawn mower was again required.

The property continues to be managed by Linda Hobbs.

## **5 OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The following Vision Statement was agreed by the PCC on 22nd November 2000 and continues to apply to the Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames:

“A single unified parish with a Team Ministry in which clergy and laity work together to serve interdependent congregations, within an active ecumenical organisation where:

- The Gospel of Christ is celebrated through worship and fellowship, with individual congregations providing a spectrum of traditions
- The life of the Church is built up through teaching, preaching, evangelism, pastoral care and ecumenical co-operation
- God's love is made known in mission and service to the community and society as a whole.”

The following objectives for the Team Rector appeared in the Parish Profile agreed by the PCC in November 2005.

- In liaison and collaboration with the Church in Abingdon, to refresh and progress the strategy for the development of a Christian presence in south Abingdon.
- To encourage, enable and release lay leadership and ministry to enable the Parish to be better equipped to respond to the changing patterns of stipendiary ministry.
- To continue to develop joint working within the churches and across the team, to ensure we use our resources effectively in the propagation of the gospel.

The activities undertaken to enable the PCC to achieve these objectives are described in the Review of the Year.

The PCC is heavily dependent upon the contribution of volunteers to drive forward the mission of the church and the Kingdom of God.

The PCC delegates to DCCs the matter of policy for making grants and donations from their income. The financial statements record donations made during the reporting year.

### **Public Benefit**

The PCC is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Parish. The PCC believes that, by fulfilling its responsibility to work together with the incumbent in the Parish and

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, it provides a benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for its members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- promoting Christian values, and service by members of the churches in the Parish to their communities, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

**PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES**  
**Annual Report (Continued)**  
**FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2017**

***TREASURER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2017***

The treasurer's report is appended to this report.

Andrew Birks

***STATEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCC***

We are required under charity law to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

We are also responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records;
- safeguarding the charity's assets;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud.

Reports from individual churches and groups are available from the Parish office or the each church's website.

The Annual Report and Treasurer's Report were approved by the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and signed on its behalf by

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The Revd Dr Charles Miller, Chairman