

ST STEPHEN APCM



Who would live in a house like this?

Our Church was transformed in Advent to illustrate the truth of Christmas. It was astonishing to discover that many children did not know the Christian story. Arriving at the final scene of the Nativity some children were expecting to meet Santa Claus or Cinderella! Instead they met with Jesus...

What a joy and a privilege it was to open the Church in this way and welcome so many children from our Estate into their own Church! Who's up for another adventure this year?



The Magi's Tent

Such opulence! look up to see the night sky, which is the brightest star?



The Ashby family

home at 11.30 on Christmas Eve. Shhhhhh!



Joseph's workshop

Where are they?



FONTHILL VISIT



HALL- STABLE



VESTRY- FIELD

Vicars Report

Jeremiah 29:11-13 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

They say as you get older the years start to fly by and I’m beginning to see the truth of that adage! We are already into our fourth year together and have shared exciting, demanding and some troublesome times together! Who can forget the tiles falling from the ceiling in the summer and the initial disruption to our worship which actually finished as a blessing. As we gathered together at the back of Church around the font, that symbol of new life, many of us felt exactly that! A new closeness, a new intimacy, a real sense of family. My abiding memory of the summer was Nicky B’s testimony of praying for her work colleague as requested, there and then, on the spot! not her preferred prayer time in the privacy of her own home. Nicky said how moved she was by it and how easy and surprisingly natural it had felt for her. Nicky then turned the tables and called people up from the congregation to lay hands on and pray for me, goodness knows how I pulled myself back together to finish the service, I have since invested in some waterproof mascara!



In the summer our neighbours at the Community Church resourced us to put on a Jungle themed holiday club during the last week of August. We had a church full of local people hearing about Jesus and enjoying our hospitality and welcome. Our own Janet and the amazingly multi talented

John G told the stories from Scripture to the children really well, it was such a pleasure seeing them grow in faith and God's ability in them.

Sadly in August Hester 'with an H' as she liked to say went on to glory. Hester was such a faithful loyal member of our Church Family and a year on our Wednesday mornings are not quite the same without her. We had a further 14 funerals this year it is a huge privilege to walk alongside families at such a time of sadness as we are able to speak of the hope of heaven that Christians have as we minister to them in their time of need.

September saw the appointment of Barbara Hase as our Children and Families Mission Enabler. It was a joy at the Christingle service to have a moment of thanksgiving to God for their son on the actual day his adoption was finalised! Thank you all for making her family so welcome, it has been lovely getting to know them and I know many of you have taken them into your hearts, therefore it is with regret that I write that Barbara has decided to stand down now and concentrate on her own family life for a time. Please keep the family in your prayers. I'm pleased to say we have been awarded more funding so we will be advertising shortly for her replacement.

In December we welcomed 450 local children from Fonthill, Baddocks Wood and Littlemead schools into the Church to experience the Christmas story in a new and interactive way. Thanks to the teaching and financial generosity of our friends from Redland Parish Church and physical help from our brothers and sisters from other Churches on the Estate we were able to hold this event. The joy on the faces of the children as they traveled on the journey 'through the keyhole' picking up important clues as they searched for Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men



was beautiful to behold and a privilege to share. I am so very proud of the Children of Southmead, and many helpers from Redland Parish Church commented on how polite and well mannered they were and insisted I feed that encouragement back to the schools and parents. Each person involved in this trail grew spiritually in some way, for example when I watched Alison confidently telling the children all about

Josephs workshop and the journey options the Holy Family had to get to Bethlehem I had big fat tears welling up in my eyes. It was a powerfully moving experience for all involved and some of the accompanying teachers even had a tear in their eye as we encountered Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the stable at the end of the trail. We were all totally exhausted after the weeks adventure but all agreed it had been the incredibly worthwhile.



Another Alpha course in January saw people coming to faith in Jesus and giving their lives over to him and some making those first tentative steps towards him, we are continuing to meet weekly as a discipleship group at the vicarage. There are a number of home groups currently running and there will be spaces for new comers as some have moved into new groups. Please speak to me if you would like more information about them.



Prayers over the last three years were finally answered and we were able to have our first Messy Church on Feb 14th with a theme of Love! we had over 50 people attend which gave us confidence to do another on Holy Saturday with

similar numbers attending and able to hear some of the Christian story.

The Easter Prayer Trail also gave an opportunity to experience the story in an interactive way and was powerful for many that came, especially seeing the footsteps of the Risen christ heading out the door of the Church, a message in there for all of us I feel?



Easter Day was especially poignant again this year as we had a full immersion Baptism as Jess publicly declared her faith in Jesus before her friends and family, what an impact it has had on them.

Shortly after Easter a group of us went off to **Spring Harvest** at the Butlin's Holiday camp in Minehead. Once again it was a a time of excellent teaching and worship amongst thousands of Christians.



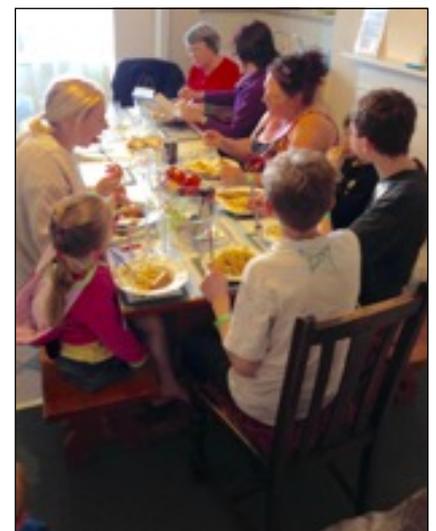
Jess in THE much shared Baptism T-Shirt!



There are age appropriate groups, seminars and teaching streams, therefore something for everyone! Spring Harvest is always a good and timely reminder that we are not alone as Christians on our estate but share our Faith with 2 Billion others worldwide! What an encouragement that is! I believe plans are afoot for a visit again next year.



Vicky feeding the not quite 5000!



Well almost!

The Diocese have asked my husband Glenn and I to train as Work Consultants to aid others in Ministry Development, this involves three residential training sessions this year we are already two down with one to go in July. We are also preparing to receive our Curate Trevor Meardon, his wife Cat and children Hope and Micah who will be joining us in July for the next three- to four years. Please pray for them as they prepare for ordination and all that lies ahead of them. We will be having some new students joining us in September but I'm sorry to say I doubt it will soften the blow of losing Anika, Kieran, Joel, Dom and their families who have been an immense blessing to us over the past few years, special thanks must go to Tara who has been a huge asset to the Jigsaw (Jesus is great super and wonderful) team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as a congregation for your willingness to take part in Gods plans for his Church in Southmead, so many of you contribute in so many ways, you give generously, you turn up and spend your time and energies so freely, thank you from the bottom of my heart. It has been a joy to see us growing not only in number but in confidence and ability to serve Christ and those that don't yet know him, I don't know about you but I can't wait to see what he will do next amongst us!

Come Holy Spirit your bride (your church) awaits your call, we are yours, lead on...

CHRIS, JOHN AND GLENN PUTTING OUR CHURCH BACK TOGETHER!

I couldn't look! I felt queasy just watching Chris climbing up and down the scaffolding like a man half his age whilst Glenn and John held on to the floor and passed the essential tools like constant cups of tea and the odd ceiling tile!

Whilst the work was going on during the summer we had services at the back of Church. This turned out to be a time of growth both personally and corporately as we came together a new sense of community and belonging was forged. In response to this we moved some chairs to the front of church to continue the intimacy of worship for those that prefer to gather together .

As a preacher I have to say it is lovely to be closer and able to interact with people whilst speaking, it brings a real sense of purpose and response, it was so much harder and actually lonelier when everyone used to sit at the back.



Wardens Report.

I have been church warden for three years now and have learnt so much but there is still so much I haven't learnt yet, It's a sad time that Sandra Gray has chosen to stand down after two years but we have had some memorable times together working side by side trying our best to ensure everything runs smoothly and is in order. I look forward to standing a further year to ensure the new church warden has help and training in the role. Work still continues to complete the required repairs in the quinquennial report 4 years ago, jobs are being ticked off but it's a long slow process and of course it's also a case of funds to do these jobs. I would like to thank the team of people that help make my position easier by being there and doing what they do, the PCC committee in the decision making, Janet Moreton as deputy church warden my husband John for all his hard work in making sure the church is cleaned with help from others and the opening and closing of the building to enable the various groups we have at St Stephens to access the building.

Vicky Gardner.

After serving 2 years in the role, it is with regret that I have decided to stand down as Church Warden due to my other commitments.

I will, however, continue to be Child Safeguarding and DBS Officer for St Stephen's. I have felt privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such an amazing team and would like to thank all of them for the love, support and teamwork they have provided. In particular, I would like to thank Vicky who

is an amazing Church Warden and has always been there... nothing has ever been too much for her!



Janet too has provided additional help as Deputy Church Warden and John Gardiner - all have always offered and delivered support all round! So I know the future Church Warden will be in safe hands!

We have an amazing Church family at St Stephen's, which is growing in faith, teamwork and number! I pray that this continues over the coming year and look forward to what the future year will deliver!

Sandra Gray

As a Team

We would like to take this opportunity of saying a huge thank you to all those who have set aside time, energy and support to cleaning, gardening, and the repairing of the Church premises. This is an

ongoing and daunting job, but when there have been many hands the work has proved more manageable! Grateful thanks to those who also offer their weekly, silent and loyal support in preparing the linen and silverware for the services, Servers, those who read, ring the bell, count the offerings, deal with the Tax side of Gift Aid, intercede, sides-people, and those who provide refreshments on Sundays and Wednesdays. All of your help is really appreciated by us all and we would welcome anyone who would like to be more involved in supporting St Stephen's in any way possible.

Again, we have been extremely fortunate to have hosted several Trinity Students who have worshipped with us and shared their many skills, knowledge and faith. We thank them for all that they have shared with us and pray for their continued growth in faith as some of them move to their new ventures elsewhere.

There have been some amazing events and activities this past year which have had a significant impact on the community of Southmead, the main highlights being:

- 'Christmas through the Keyhole,' enabled over 500 children learn more about the true story of the Nativity
- The Easter Trail offered quiet reflection time for people during Holy Week

- The introduction of messy Church, thanks to Barbara Hase and the team, has offered a new dimension for people and families to find faith
- Open the Book at Baddock's Wood and Fonthill Schools, has brought the Bible stories into our schools and made them real
- Numerous Alpha Courses have provided opportunities for members of the community to explore and build their faith

A huge thank you to all of you who have contributed to these events, you have enabled our Church to succeed in reaching out therefore gaining a greater presence within the community of Southmead!

Vicky, Sandra and Dep Janet

Fabric report

It's now been 4 years since the quinquennial report and we have been working hard to tick off the items that need addressing, in the last year we have had to take down all of the acoustic tiles in the sanctuary and have the wall re-plastered before the tiles could be replaced and painted, this alone was a big job and was an expense we could have done without, so the plan is to continue to work our way through the list. There is still a plan to paint the St Stephens room in a brighter colour so to give the room a lift. It's a very big thank you to the buildings team Chris Caithness, Glenn lord and John Gardner for all the hard work they put into keeping the church building up together and a safe

place to come and worship. The choir loft remains out of bounds for general use because of the poor flooring and the door to the loft is to be kept locked at all times except for when the organist is playing.

We are working on trying to get the clock repaired as its used by the community when waiting at the bus stops on Greystoke Ave as an example, we had one of the bell ropes break this has now been spliced back together enabling Mervin to continue his role during the Eucharistic prayer. Along with the church building we have the curates house to maintain too and a lot of work has been done to update the heating and windows in the house, the house is rented so it helps to provide for the upkeep of both the church and the house.

Safe and Welcome Safeguarding the vulnerable in our parish is every one's responsibility. We want all to be welcome in our church and for all to be safe from the

small number of people who prey on the vulnerable.

There are two groups of such people:

- * Children and young people
- * Vulnerable adults.

In both cases they are those who for whatever reason are considered to be unable to give 'informed consent' to those around them who are involved in supporting and caring for them - in St Stephens that means in our church and its activities.

There are two safeguarding persons in the Parish - Sandra Gray and Nick Williams. Sandra is also the Lead Recruiter who is responsible for initiating and implementing the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

The PCC have an approved policy and this is under continuous review as lessons are learnt and as we are advised by the **Diocesan Safeguarding Officer - Leanne Smith.**

The St Stephens Southmead PCC Secretary Report to the APCM 2016

The PCC has met on six occasions including the PCC meeting immediately after the last APCM. Average attendance has been 80%.

Key issues have been:

- Thinking around formation of Action delivery teams
- The appointment of Barbara House as Children's and Family Mission Enabler
- Preparing and presenting 'Christmas through the keyhole'
- The White Hall and it's future.
- An excellent Safeguarding training session
- The Southmead Project, including the future development of the area
- The appointment of a new curate - Trevor Meardon

It will be sad to say good bye to Mervyn Woodrow and John Beale who have been our Deanery Synod representatives and Sandra Grey as one of the Church Wardens. In the autumn Ben Treadaway resigned as he was moving out of the area. Janet Moreton and John Gardner each retire by virtue of the three year rule. All are thanked for their valuable contributions to the business of the Council.



Associate Minister

Another year passed swiftly by! Your Associate Minister has kept occupied with the leading/preaching and presiding, putting together a monthly service rota, pastoral work and taking of some funeral services. Our e mail Prayer Chain continues to thrive, it now has 21 members, do please speak to me if you would like to be included on the chain. It works well in getting as many people praying as quickly as possible for many varied people and situations. Chris and I continue to lead a monthly House group generously hosted by John and Vicky Gardner. Two Intercessors have been added to our list for morning services. During Advent I put together four reflections on how Mary (mother of Jesus) saying 'Yes' to God impacted on the whole of her life.

On a more personal note in 2015 Chris and I became grandparents (grandson James) for the first time, which has brought a bundle of joy into our lives as you can imagine and also I reached my three score years and ten (very biblical!).

I continue to enjoy getting to know so many of you better and thank you so much for

your love, prayers and support throughout this last year.

It is a privilege to see God 'working his purposes out' amongst you all at St. Stephens and to feel very much part of it.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future ..." Jeremiah 29: 11.

Blessings **Joyce**.

Study Group

This year the group has concentrated on studying St Johns Gospel, a task which has been challenging but also rewarding.

The Gospel contains of course, some memorable passages essential to our Christian faith, for example John 3:16, John 13:34 and John 15:4.



We have just begun to follow Pilgrim - a course for the Christian Journey.

When we set up the group in July 2009 we had two aims in view firstly to enable people to talk more naturally about their Christian faith and secondly to try and involve the whole congregation in what we are doing in the group. The first Aim has certainly been met - discussions have been lively and

committed, the second aim we have still to achieve but in connection with this we hope to offer a set of notes to the congregation covering all the topics covered since 2009 so that people can select and sign up for Topics of particular interest to them.

We continue to meet fortnightly and 2pm on Mondays in the St Stephens Room. I should like to thank Joyce and Jenny L for their support and guidance sat the meetings.

John Beale.

Baby And Toddlers

The St Stephens baby and toddler group, which runs every Monday 9:30am-11:30am during school term time, continues with success. We are blessed to have several families who come to baby and toddler group every week, we have welcomed new babies into many of these families, and have seen off some of the older ones as they leave to start nursery, or school. We've had new starters, who have heard about us from friends, some have seen our posters outside, and some have found our Facebook page online.

We have worked on trying to display some of the activities we do at toddler group on the display boards in the St Stephens room, including some crafts related to some of the parables Clair has told the children. We do try to change these displays as often as time allows. We hope they brighten the room, and inform everyone as to the sort of things we enjoy doing on Mondays.

We have added some brightly coloured chairs and new tables for the children to use, they are good quality and versatile, so can be used for many activities within the church. The foam floor mats we purchased last year remain an integral part of the setup, providing a safe place for babies, and

a gathering point for storytime and singing time. Money well spent! We ask that the mats are taken care of as well as possible when they're used during the week outside of toddler group, thank you.

I'd like to thank those who help to clear the St Stephens room of tables and chairs on Sunday in preparation for toddler group, as it can be a hard job for the team on Monday mornings. We do try to gather up all of the toys when we tidy, but apologies that there's often a stray building block, or crayon found lurking under the benches!

This past year we have welcomed Barbara to our Church, and we're grateful for her help in setting up for the sessions, while John Gardner has taken a break to focus his energies elsewhere, and is much missed. Our wonderful Janet is a blessing to the group, and I'd like to say a special thanks to her. We've also had help from young members of the community, including Jess, as part of her college work experience. I, Jo, have been part of the baby & toddler group for over 3 years, and it has been wonderful, but I intend to step down from running the group this year. If you feel called to join the toddler group team, either to lead or help, please do! The more the merrier!

With love, Jo.



Student report

Since September 2016, God has continued to use the St Stephen's church family to encourage, guide and support five ordinands (student vicars) as we follow God's call and train for ministry. We would like to thank you for all the ways you have helped us on our journeys, you are key to our development.

From when I first waked into St Stephen's in September, I have encountered a warm welcome and acceptance. It is easy to sense the love of God among this church family. I feel so thankful that God led me to this church. I remember on our first Sunday of the term, my fellow ordinands said how encouraged they felt by seeing a growth in families with young children join the church over recent months and years. We've had a range of experiences, including the new Christmas Trail, which will prepare us for what God has in store next..!

At the end of this term four ordinands will be leaving St Stephen's (and Trinity College) to be ordained as Deacons and begin the next stage of their training as curates (apprentice vicars). Do pray for them on the occasion of their ordinations and you're welcome to attend if you wish!

Kieran Douglass: ordination on Sunday, 3rd July in Ely Cathedral. Then to serve in Ely Diocese at St. Andrew's, Histon & St. Andrew's, Impington.

Anika Gardiner: ordination on Saturday,

2nd July in Bristol Cathedral. Then to serve in Bristol Diocese at St Barnabas in Warmley, St Anne's in Syston, St Mary's in Bitton.

Dom Hubbuck: ordination on Saturday, 2nd July in Norwich Cathedral. Then to serve in Norwich Diocese at Brundall Benefice including Brundall, Braydeston and Postwick. (Referred to as Yare Valley Churches).

Joel Mennie: ordination on Sunday, 3rd July in Wells Cathedral. Then to serve in Bath and Wells Diocese at St Michael's Church, Twerton (Bath).

We will have a bring and share farewell lunch on Sunday, 22nd May. We will miss them and their beautiful families.

As for me, you will have to put up with me for another year! and I hope other new recruits will join me and receive the same loving welcome and support.

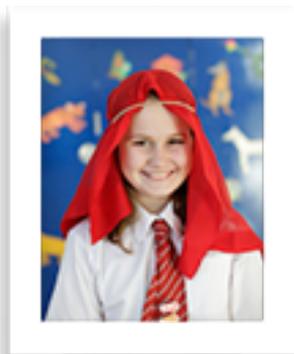
With many thanks and blessings.

Jenny and fellow ordinands



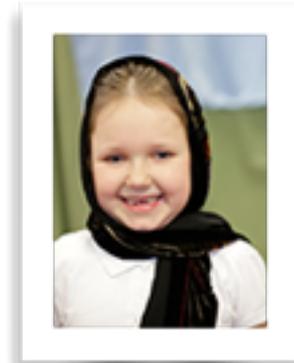


This last year has seen the creation of two partnerships which are allowing the love of God to increase in the people of Southmead. The first has been the formation and development of the 'Open the Book' team. Ecumenical in its make up friends from our neighbouring Pentecostal and United Reformed Churches have come



together with our team here to form a group that are able to deliver quality sessions of 'Open The Book' to children in our local schools. The second is the developing relationship with Fonthill and Badocks Wood schools. We have had the privilege to go to both schools and be part of their assemblies and celebrations as we have delivered 'Open The Book' sessions.

To hear and see the cheers of welcome as we walk across the playground is heart warming.



'Open the book' is 5-10 minute narrated playlet that tells a story from the Bible. Tanya narrates, the team act out the story and most importantly lead staff from the schools close the sessions by applying it to the life and formation of the children in their care. If you want to join the team please speak to me or John G.

Thank you Lord Jesus for this wonderful ministry, thank you for all involved in delivering 'Open the book' and most of all thank you for the children of Southmead.

Glenn



**3 of the 8 strong OTB team!
Join us?**

Girls Group

Southmead Girls' Group is a weekly open access youth group for local teenage girls aged 11-16 years. We meet on Monday nights from 7-9pm in the St Stephen's Room, where we enjoy a range of crafts, games, cooking and other activities. Popular evenings include 'Ready Steady Cook', team challenges, scrapbooking and quiz night.



We have up to 15 girls attending the group each week, from a range of backgrounds including some who are in foster care and from difficult home situations. The group is advertised solely by word of mouth, with current attendees inviting their friends. Our aim is to provide a safe, welcoming space for teenage girls in Southmead where we can cultivate consistent and meaningful relationships within the group.

We want to raise the self-esteem and confidence of the girls who attend, in addition to offering them new opportunities to broaden their horizons and inspire them for the future. We encourage the girls to explore relevant topics such as identity and relationships and give them space to ask questions about the Christian faith if they

would like to. Most importantly, we have fun together!

A dedicated team of volunteers from St Stephens, Community Church - Greenway, Cairns Rd Baptist and Emmanuel City Centre make each night happen. Thank you.

We are gearing up for a residential trip away on the first May Bank holiday, again to The Beacon Centre at Lee Abbey, where we went 2 years ago. The girls (and Leaders!) have worked hard to fundraise for this trip - numerous cake sales and a successful fair - and along with several grants, including the local Fourteen fund, we have raised enough money to take away 12 girls and 8 leaders, for a weekend of outdoor activity, relationship building and general fun!

Of course another highlight was seeing one of our young leaders, Jess, be baptised on Easter Sunday - wonderful to see her grow and mature through girls group and off to university in September. As a team we have been so grateful for your generous financial support and the interest you have shown. So Thank you again St Stephens - here's to another exciting year of girls group!

Yummy Cake Sale Fund Raiser



Alpha

I first attended an Alpha course back in 2014, shortly after becoming a Christian. My journey of faith up to that point had been largely personal and spiritual, but I hadn't yet answered some practical questions that were still on my mind and didn't yet have a church 'home'. Alpha gave me the safe space to raise questions no matter how silly or insignificant they seemed, to openly voice my faith but also my doubts, and to walk in fellowship among others on their journey with Jesus. I was moved by everyone who supported the Alpha at St Stephens, from those who welcomed us so warmly and offered to pray with us in times of need, to the people who provided food and washed and cleared up after us. There was an immense feeling of love and service and I was humbled that people who didn't know me wanted to help nourish my soul as well as my belly! Before our course was finished I felt God place the needs of Alpha on my heart, and I asked Tanya if I could help out at the next group. We began running another alongside the existing group, the call for evangelism was so great that we had simultaneous Alpha courses that year!

Serving at Alpha is an absolute privilege. To serve Jesus in this way seems almost too good to be true, because it gives me such excitement, and is so faith affirming that it doesn't seem like work. Realistically though, behind the scenes there is a lot of prayer, planning, cooking and preparation, but what a blessing to be able to do this and see God changing lives week after week. And He does. When people are brought to their knees by Jesus, or when individuals re dedicate their lives to Him,

we all rejoice in sheer celebration. There may be a party in Heaven but there's tears and whoops of joy in Alpha! As an evangelistic tool within our church and our community I believe it is invaluable. There's no strings attached, people come of their own accord, and keep coming because of the welcome they receive. Past Alpha 'graduates' speak of the profound healing they've found, meeting with Jesus, and other Christians in their community. Some people have made commitments of service to future Alphas. Some end up bringing their whole families to church afterwards. Some go on to be baptised as a public declaration of their belief in Christ, and still some leave, hopefully with a few questions answered, and God willing, the seeds of faith sown for the future. Alpha brings faith alive, it shows others faith in practice, and also offers an invaluable time to wrestle with difficult questions and doubts. Our church family has grown in number through the course, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us and for Southmead on the ones to come.

Jess Dimambro



**Thumbs
Up for
Alpha!**

Deanery Synod Report

Attending deanery Synod meetings I have been impressed not only by the variety of topics covered but also their relevance to each of our parishes. Topics included how to increase our parish giving to avoid reductions in clergy posts in the future, the safe and welcome scheme, how to develop self supporting ministry by ordained Priests attached to Churches in an unpaid capacity and the Uganda link. One other very important topic involves the setting up of a number of Mission areas who will share each others resources. Pilot schemes are being set up in connection with this last topic it has been made perfectly clear that the way we have used our finance and other resources up to now is no longer a realistic option. There have also been two open meetings on the Subject of working with prisoners and ex offenders, and the other dealing with the issue of developing a healing ministry in our individual churches. In connection with this there is a day course on May 21st details are on the notice board. It would be good to have a team going so if you are responsible for our intercessions or prayer after the services please make this training a priority.

John Beale

Electoral Roll

In April 2015 there are 53 names on the electoral roll, I have not been advised of any names to be removed except I'm sad to say Hester Bowden as she has gone to Glory. I have received applications from three people who wish to have their

names added to the Roll, this brings the number of people recorded on the Electoral roll to 55.



Coffee Club

We continue to meet after Wednesday morning communion thanks to the servant hearts of Esther and Sheila.

Art Club

Art Group has taken a break as it was only attracting two or three people each week and we had to balance that with costs for heating etc. We are hoping to re-invent it in the future so if you have any ideas have a chat with Janet, of course we may well serve the mission of God better by joining in with other groups (Art, Knitting, Running etc) already happening on the estate?



Southmead Project

Rev. Brenda Dowie and Tanya are working with the Southmead Project hoping to raise funds from the Church Urban Fund to run a support group for those for those supporting friends or family members that have survived childhood abuse. We will be offering the St Stephen's room to run the group sessions. We already have some funding from other sources.

Alongside this Brenda will be pioneering worship services with suitable liturgy to help survivors encounter God in appropriately sensitive ways. The Diocese is aiming to help us with accredited listeners who will provide further support.

Please pray for this new venture, there is a real need to stand up as a church and own up to our mistakes both past when abuse has been hidden or ignored and present where it still continues but may be detected and therefore supported sooner.

Treasurers Report 2015

Looking at the audited accounts for 2015 you will see that income for the year has increased overall by £5,950 from 2014 .

The Planned Gift Aid giving has increased (£1,235) due to new people joining and committing to St Stephens and some reviewing their giving .

The general giving through envelopes and cash collection has also increased by £1,699.00 last year , which is evidence that the church family has grown and we have had significant attendance through the year.

The Gift aid return from HMRC was £2,335.00 , this is a refund of money through the "Gift Aid Scheme" , if you are a tax payer and give regularly to the work of St Stephens , can I recommend that you consider giving through the Gift Aid scheme that way your money will have greater value.

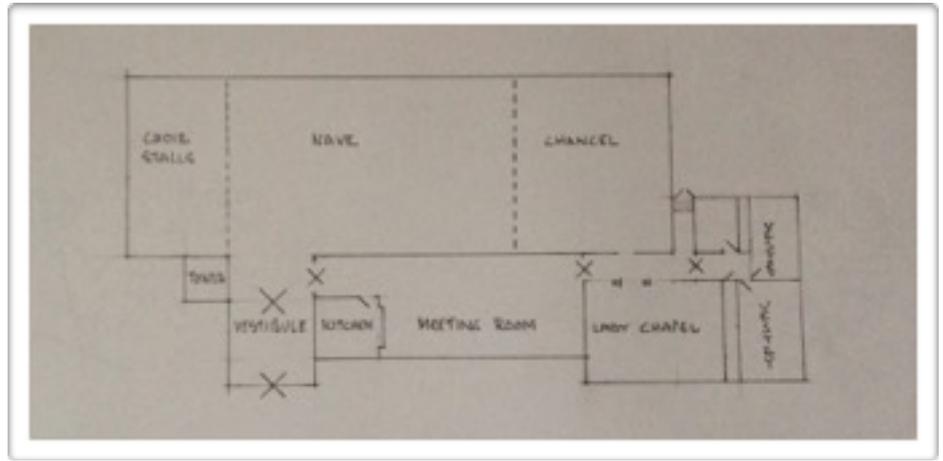
Overall financially we are continuing to meet our expenses , sometimes by subsidy from the House rent , we met our commitment to the Parish share and have increased it by 5% for 2016.

I would like to say on behalf of your PCC , a big thank you for your continued support to the work of St Stephens .

Chris Caithness
(Treasurer)

White Hall

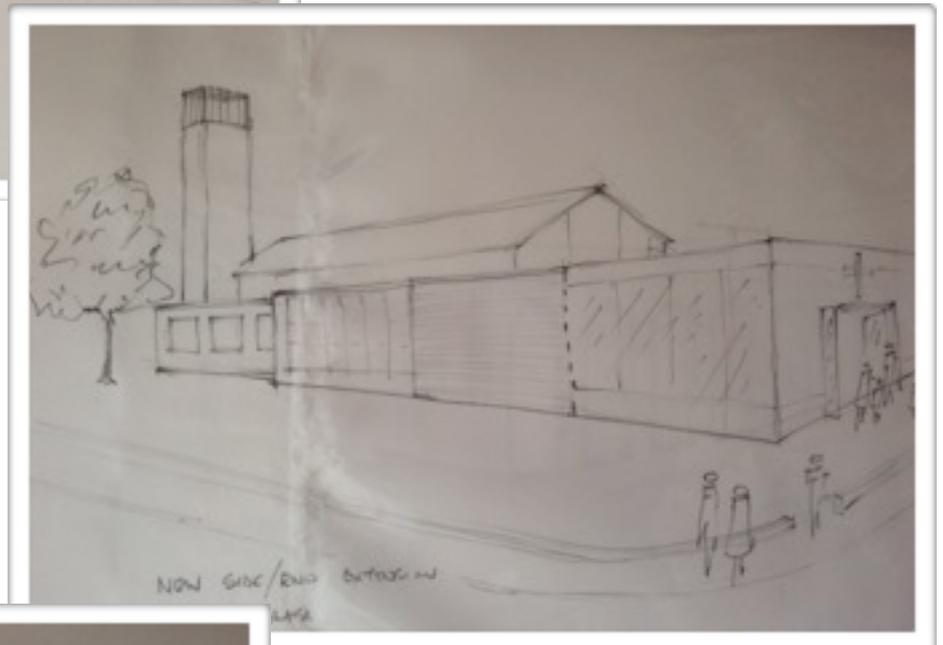
We have been playing with some ideas of how we might re order the Church when we sell the Whitehall, a few ideas illustrated.



Scale drawing of site presently.



Possible enhanced entrance



Proposed new entrance opening on to the Green to integrate with the possible new development on Glencoyne Square.



