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# St Stephen's Church Southmead

## APCM Report 2016

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Equipping believers with faith for life

"The **Spirit of the Lord** is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim **freedom**  
for the prisoners  
and **recovery** of sight for the blind,  
to **release** the oppressed,  
to **proclaim** the year of the  
**Lord's favour.**"

 Saint  
Stephen's  
Southmead



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## Vicars Report



What an amazing, encouraging and challenging year we have had! Many of us have experienced a move of the Holy Spirit both in our own lives and in our understanding of God and all he longs to do in and through us. Praise you Jesus!

**It seems to me that we might call this last year ‘The year of Welcome!’**

As well as welcoming more of the Holy Spirit we have welcomed our shiny new Curate Trev and his wife Cat and their children Hope and Micah they have been a huge asset to us at St Stephen’s already. We have also welcomed Liz Ogbourne as our Children and Families Mission enabler. Caroline, Andy and Emma have joined us as Ordinands training for ministry at Trinity College. Sam and Liz and Hannah and Joe who have bought a house in the area to commit to the life of the church and and a few others on the fringes of church life...exploring what faith might look like for them.

We have been blessed by so many for example recently retired Jenny Low’s ministry amongst us and we are seeing more of Brenda Dowie now she is back in Bristol, and of course Rev Nick who helps out in so many ways. Thanks also must go to our wardens especially Vicky G who gallantly stood as Church Warden for another year to cover us as David took up the reigns. Joyce and Chris who have been an amazing support, Chris has done a great job getting us out of the old Book ledger ways and up and running electronically! But I think the most thanks must go to the people that have spruced up the place, I’ve never seen the church so clean! Dawn, Jacqui, Janet and Ali are the dream team! but there is space for you if you want to muck in? Thank you all so very much for serving for just spotting what needs doing and getting on with it, you are truly appreciated!

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We have taken ten funerals and two weddings, and we continue to pray for all those that come into contact with the Church through these ministries. We hosted the Deanery Confirmation service where our own Harley and Jacqui were confirmed, many thanks to all our cake bakers! Personal highlight of the year for me, Baptising Tom and his mum Sher, so glad she has discovered why all those Christians keep on smiling!

Our sermon series' this year have helped us with personal and corporate discipleship. Early on in the year we looked at Gods Big Story in our Altogether Worship services, then thanks to a comment by our beloved John Beale about needing to know more about the Holy Spirit we developed a sermon series looking at the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how to walk in them, this and the new Life Group Gatherings has been instrumental in our ongoing response to God. Our worship now seems to have much more of a participatory experiential element now, I am getting request for songs and hymns all the time!

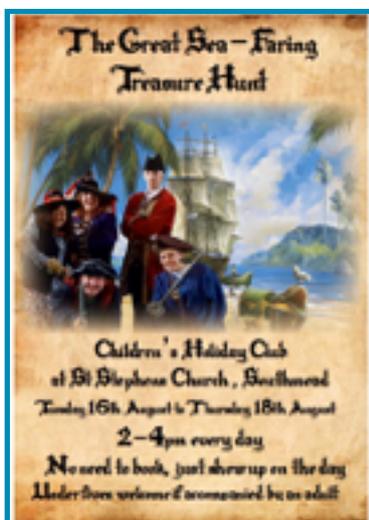


The Life Group space set up ready for action

Our quiet attempt at opening the tent as a Pokemon stop!



The most recent sermon series looked at what was the good news and how we might share the good news in our daily lives, this also ran concurrently with our new Life Group gatherings. The aim of the life Group Gatherings was to give us space to learn, to question and more freedom to Worship and pray, we had between 12 - 17 people each week. We had a fantastic time in the summer with our friends from Community Church who helped us put on a holiday club. Once again we had the church transformed not into a Jungle this time but a 'Treasure Island' complete with ship the SS Mead and the roaring sea, a beach and some sharks! Loads of families from the estate came and enjoyed food fun and stories. We welcomed back Lily Mae's family, she was the first baby I Baptised when I first arrived, It was wonderful to see the building so full of life! Some of the costumes were brilliant every one entered into the fun, not so much fun clearing it all away afterwards though! It was a lot of sand to shift, which actually went on to bless the children from the Family centre in Doncaster road.

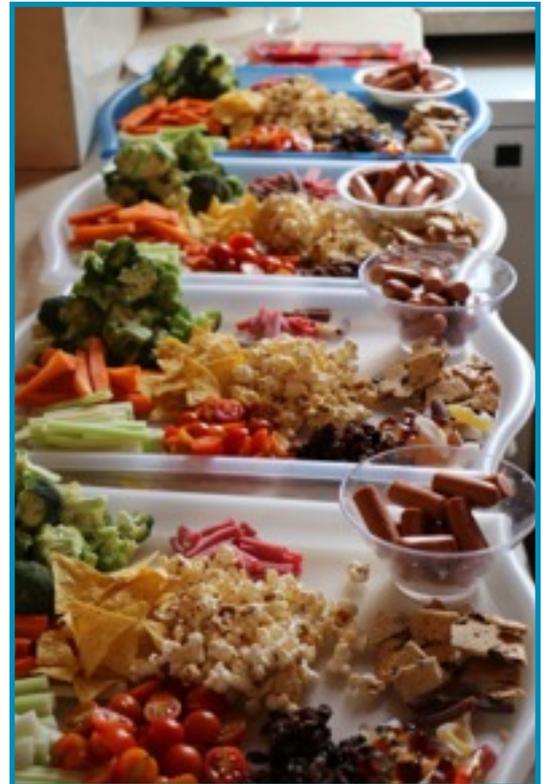




## A beach on the Mead!

Food for all me hearties

Pirates Fingers  
Octopus eyes  
Pirates toenails  
I'll leave it there it gets worse!



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We had two quiz nights this year one for 'Christian Aid' and one to raise funds to help put on our Christmas Through the Keyhole' trail, which was fantastic again this year and much easier as we took less classes from each school, and Elmfield school for the deaf came for the first time and loved it!



We have Trev and Cats creativity to thank for our new coffee area at the back of Church, it is noticeable how many more now stay on for coffee after the service, so much easier in so many ways.



The White hall, remains unsold. We are in a much better position now to sell it what with all the plans afoot to develop a strip of land around Arnside and Glencoyne square for shops and affordable housing. Imagine St Stephen's opening up out on to the Green rather than around the corner. Imagine a glass front, a cafe, office space, community hall space in the Church! Can you imagine the church being the hub of the community? I can, and if you can, come and be part of the team to push this forward.

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Glenn and I finished the work consultancy course and are now both mentoring other clergy in the diocese. I have also undertaken the role of a Vocations Advisor for the Diocese, this involves me walking alongside those exploring authorised ministry in the Church of England before they see the Director of Ordinands. It is a huge privilege to hear about what God is doing in peoples lives and sharing in their journey of faith.

I have also been asked to join the Deanery Leadership team which meets monthly in Redland.

The diocese put my name forward for a leadership development programme with the National Church. I spoke with my then wardens and dept warden who all encouraged me go through the somewhat lengthy discernment process. It took several months and many interviews and reports, and a psychometric test! before I heard that I'd been selected. The training runs over a five year period and involves three three day residentials with the learning community per year and a pilgrimage with the ABC at some point. I have already been to Lambeth Palace and Canterbury Cathedral as part of the course which has been wonderful. I have learnt an enormous amount already, especially interesting to me has been the learning round 'Fractals' in culture; Why we do what we do, how what we have seen modelled before us can become who we think we should be, rather than who God intended us to be. Much food for thought as we continue the Lords missional journey together, here in Southmead.

## Wardens Report

This is my forth and final report as warden of St Stephen Southmead, It's been a pleasure to have served the church and the congregation over this time, its been a time of learning with Wardens forums and training days which has given me a much greater knowledge of how the church is run on a local basis and the greater community of the church. This last year we had David join me as warden too and have hopefully taught him all that I know so he can continue with my replacement.

The community of our church has changed again over this last year where we have said goodbye to students as they continue their journey and a very big welcome to our new students who are fully involved in our services and children groups. We have had some changes over the year with the arrangements over coffee at the back of church, a new coffee bar and the removal of pews in the lady chapel during the 'Keyhole' experience. It

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has been a great year as we have welcomed Trev, Cat and the children to St Stephens and what a blessing they are to us, thank you for all your hard work.

### **Fabric**

There's still lots to do in the church with everyday tasks such as maintenance, gardening, cleaning and then there's the PCC who work to bring the best to our church community so as a last appeal as Church warden if you feel you are able to help out in any way please speak to either myself, David, Tanya or Trev as many hands make light work.

I can honestly say we managed to get the important jobs on the quinquennial report done, this has taken a long time and a lot of work by the PCC and buildings team to get this done, it won't be long before the next Quinquennial.

### **Vicky**

Praise God, what a year it's been here at St Stephens. It's been tough trying to learn all the things I need to be a good church warden, but I'm getting there and Vicky has been a great help. It will be sad to see her step down this year but I know we'll all pray that she has some much deserved rest. With everything she's taught me, I look forward to helping our new warden to look after our church.

The PCC has been doing some great things this year.

Coffee corner at the back of church has been a great success, thanks in no small part to Trev and Cat for the stunning reinvention of a church pew into our coffee bar. Thanks to all who serve every week to ensure we have a chance to stay after Sunday service and get to know each other and grow as a family.

The use of our church building in the community has been a great success this year with summer's pirate church and Christmas Through the Keyhole both getting rave reviews. I would like to say a massive thank you to Chris Caithness for all the work he's done as treasurer - he's gone above and beyond for us all and I pray that he knows how much he's appreciated and loved in our family.

Big welcome to Steve Hamilton who will be taking over from Chris as treasurer, I know he's going to do a great job.

I was privileged to be able to bear witness to Tanya being officially made our vicar by Bishop Mike and Arch Deacon Christine at the confirmation service this month. I feel

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lucky and blessed that we have someone so strong in faith and leadership to guide our church forward into next year and beyond!

As church warden I look forward to the coming year, watching our congregation continue to grow in faith and number, as we all live in and through the Holy Spirit. I know I am truly blessed to be a part of it.

**David Dimambro. Warden**

## **Associate Minister Report.**



Well here we are again another year passed by, rather too quickly it sometimes feels.

I have continued with preaching and presiding and joining in with John Beale's fortnightly Bible Study Group when able to. I have done some funerals and home communions. The prayer chain continues to be a support to those using it, do let me know if you would like to join, it's a way of getting as many people as possible praying as quickly as possible for the needs of the congregation, the parish, the world. Also if you are interested in leading the Intercessions for the Sunday morning services do

have a word with me.

This year I have also laid down one or two things, the Service Rota which has been picked up by Stephen Hamilton and also the joint leading of the monthly Housegroup with Chris.

It has been a year of challenges one way and another and I thank you all for your prayers, support and encouragement and look forward to the coming year when I'm sure there will be many more joys and challenges.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace."

Numbers 6: 24-26

**Joyce**

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## Curates Report.



I arrived with my family in June to a very warm welcome! We got settled into the new routine of living in a new house, Hope moving to secondary school and the new church family we were now called to be a part of. It didn't take long for us to know that our church was a real place, a place where you could be yourself, a place where there was change and expectation.

I've been through a bit of life change myself too. A back problem flared up out of nowhere and has left me not able to do as much as I could. Working part time and struggling with the day to day has been hard work but despite that I've seen God do amazing things.



There have been some great new things evolving. I have loved being a part of the LIFE groups that we've started over the last nine months, they have been a place to explore gifts, learn together and meet with God through his Holy Spirit. We had exciting times when we met exploring the gifts of the Spirit and then when we met during the Gospel series understanding how we can share the good news – which Andy led us through. These have been amazing opportunities to go deeper together, I'm looking forward to the next ones!

I've been involved with quite a bit of the life of the church so far, and there is a lot going on here! One of the highlights for me has been being involved in the recent Easter events. I worked with Liz and the team from Open the Book to go into the local schools running a special Easter Assembly. It was great to be able to share the Easter story with so many children – we invited them all to the Messy Easter event on Easter Saturday. Wow! I'm not sure any of us on team were expecting to see the church that full, there were 80 children and lots of parents there as well. We



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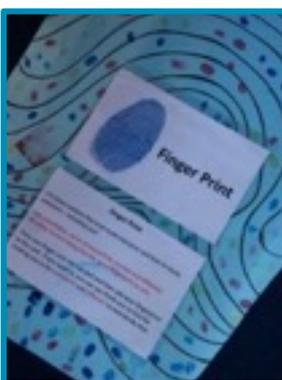
were packed out! Again there was lots of fun but also a short talk on the message of Easter – that Jesus died to wipe out all our sins and welcome us into a big family, God’s family.

It really is great to see all that God is doing here, and a privilege to be called to serve as part of this family at St Stephen’s. The message of Easter rings true here, a group of people called into a new family. We’re a family with all that it brings – it’s messy, we make mistakes, we try new things, we are honest about how we’re doing and we’re held together by the love which is not our own, the love of God.

Let’s keep telling people about this love and our family will keep growing!

Trev

## Children and Families Mission Enabler Report



I came to work as Children and Families Mission Enabler in mid-October 2016. The aim of my role is to equip church members to reach out to children and families both within church and in the local community.

My first job was to re-establish **Sunday morning activities** for the children. I was so encouraged by the willingness of church members to get involved and the rota soon filled up – thanks to Debbie! I bought a subscription to some new materials and the children seem to be really enjoying these. But more important is their interaction with the volunteers who spend time with them, modelling Jesus and teaching them about their Heavenly Father. I’m sure we’re all very grateful to the team. A new addition is the monthly Youth Session run by Caroline who has taken our youth members to a couple of events at other churches too – thanks so much Caroline! The whole Sunday morning team had fun at a training session in February where we thought about best practice as well as our goals and aims on Sunday mornings.



**Christmas Through the Keyhole** snuck up on us quickly! 250 children from 4 local primary schools enjoyed visiting the homes of the nativity characters to collect clues. They finished at the stable where they met the characters and heard their story. We had wonderful feedback from staff and children. Thanks to all the volunteers who led children, made lanterns, served drinks, cleaned up...your hard work made it happen!



In January, a team of members gathered to host our first **Prayer Space** in a local primary school. Jenny B worked hard to plan the prayer activities and a few of us transformed the school library into a sacred space. The whole school (200 children) used the prayer space over 2 days to pray, reflect and think on themes such as saying sorry, saying thank you, asking for help for themselves and others and asking big questions. The feedback was very positive. Again, thanks to

members for hosting the space so sensitively.

When I arrived St Stephen's already had a thriving **Open the Book** assemblies team (the rehearsals are never dull!). The team regularly goes into Fonthill and Elmfield to host assemblies where they tell a bible story using props and Oscar-winning acting. Little Mead and Badocks Wood also now want to book us! As I write, Trev and I are planning some special Easter assemblies, featuring the OTB team, in all 4 schools.

I have LOVED being involved at St Stephen's. If you don't see me much it's because that's the aim! I want to equip YOU to continue to be brilliant in serving children and families and to provide some back up and new ideas to develop what you're already doing. Thank you so much for your support. Let's keep praying that our children and their families will find the wonderful Life that's available to them through knowing Jesus.

**Liz Ogborne:**

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## Toddler Report.



We currently regularly see 15-20 young children arrive on Monday mornings with their adults.

We have recently shortened the sessions to 1 1/2 hours rather than the previous 2 hours. We had become aware that 2 hours of a noisy session was a little to much for some little children and they were getting stressed or needing to leave

early. Also those of us who organise and support the sessions were flagging before 11.30!

The programme remains unchanged, There is always a craft activity- which I hope adults may feel inclined to repeat at home. We also include a story time when children are encouraged to sit and listen for a short while. That is followed by snack time which starts with some healthy bits (fruit and vegetables) followed by something more filling.

Currently we find toast with cheese spread very popular, and a drink of squash or water of course there is a cup of tea and some cake for the grown ups.

After time for returning to free play we close with singing, where children are encouraged to tell us of their favourite song.

Many thanks go out to Tanya and Glenn as well as Alison and Dawn for getting out toys and preparing snacks, as well as washing and clearing away at the end and to Clare for singing and wonderfully engaging story telling. It was great to have Hannah with us for a while too.

Jane

## Study Group Report



This year the group has continued to follow the Church of England pilgrim course - a course for the Christian journey. recently we have considered the subject of the Eucharist, the next section deals wit the Bible - what it is, how it was given to us, how we should read it and how to make Bible reading part of our daily life

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As always, an exchange of views in the group makes clear what we believe and how it applies to our everyday life. It also shows up the times on when we rely on our gut feelings rather than on Jesus teaching. The discussion takes place in an atmosphere of good humour.

Thanks to Jenny L and to Joyce for their support and guidance through the meeting

**John Beale.**

## **Ordinands Report.**

St Stephen's church reveals God's love and partners with God in building His Kingdom here on earth in many different ministries. One such way is through the church's ministry to training the next priests and church leaders. Tanya is an inspirational and dedicated supervisor of the students' development and I personally want to thank her for making a significant difference to my journey. Our training is not solely dependent upon Tanya: God has been using the whole St Stephen's church family to guide, encourage and support us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ministry.

St Stephen's has seen a big change over this last year having said farewell to Dom, Kieran, Anika and Joel along with their families. In September we welcomed three ordinands (student vicars) to join Jenny: Caroline Deakin, Andy Smith and Emma Swarbrick. They have brought new skills, enthusiasm and passion to serve God and the community of Southmead and have become involved with a broad range of ministries from Girls' Group, Christmas Through the Keyhole, Life Groups and Alpha amongst many others. They, like me, have found the St Stephen's church family to be open, warm and welcoming.

God willing, Caroline, Andy and Emma will continue to be a part of the St Stephen's family through the coming year, perhaps joined by others. I will be leaving St Stephen's (and Trinity College) in the middle of May, being ordained as Deacon on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Wells Cathedral. I am then due to serve my curacy (apprenticeship) in the Bath and Wells Diocese at Widcombe Benefice in Bath. I would be grateful of your prayers on the occasion of my ordination and you are most welcome to attend if you wish!

With many thanks and blessings.

**Jenny and fellow ordinands**

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## Open the Book Report.

Open the Book allows groups of people to go into schools and tell a simple bible story to the pupils using drama and then giving them something to think about related to the story and respond with a prayer if they choose to.

A group of about half a dozen of us have practised our dramatic skills and visited Fonthill Primary school each half term to do this and, starting this January, every month. That has allowed us to start at the beginning with the Genesis stories and start to give the children



an overview of the 'big story' of the Bible. Each visit we try to find ways to involve the pupils in helping to tell the story, which they love, especially if they can dress up! After their visit to 'Through the Keyhole' at Christmas, we have also been invited by Elmfield school for the deaf to visit them each month as well. This has tested our communication skills but has been very exciting and worthwhile.

Little Mead and Baddocks Wood schools have agreed for us to do Easter assemblies this year, so please pray that we will be able to take 'Open the Book' more regularly to them too in the future.

We are glad to have people from other churches helping us with this project and there is always room for others to join us if they would like.

**Jenny Low**

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## Girls Group Report.



You can take the girl out of the salon  
but you can't take the hairdresser  
out of the girl!

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.

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We had a fantastic residential trip away, 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, head off to university - wonderful to see her grow and mature through girls group.

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.

## Electoral Roll



With sadness we note that Les DeJong has gone to glory, the Gardiner's and the Mennies have moved away and we have 8 new people added this year giving us a total of 59 on the Electoral Roll this year.



## Safeguarding Report.

Well it's been a fantastic year! We are so pleased and overjoyed with the appointment of Liz Ogborne as our Children's and Young Peoples Worker! She is a great boost to our team of keen members of our congregation who are willing and happy to nurture and encourage faith, love and knowledge to our younger members of our flock! Thank you sooo much to all who give up their time in preparing, delivering and supporting these sessions through our "Kid's Creation Station," sessions on Sundays. They are such fun sessions... if you are not already involved... you're missing out! It's amazing

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and inspirational to see and experience how children capture and share their faith! Please speak to any of us if you would like to be involved ☺

Thank you all (required) so much for completing the DBS process... It's not as bad as it seems and pretty quick nowadays being online (I appreciate, as long as you have access to the Internet... I can always go through this procedure with you – and it's free if you're a volunteer!) It's so important to keep all of us safe!

Nick has been **super amazing** in all the work he has done in “streamlining” the Safeguarding Policies for Children and Young Peoples AND Vulnerable Adults into a shorter and more ‘digestible’ version. The full version is available to see should you wish! So many thanks to Nick for doing this!

The key thing now is that we have to keep a record of any further Safeguarding Training that we complete! PLEASE EMAIL NICK OF:

- The title of the course
- Date of completion
- The provider of the course

This can be any training provided through the Diocese or through another accredited organisation.

Please do not forget that Safeguarding is ALL of our responsibility but should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to talk to Nick or myself!

Many thanks Sandra Gray

## Coffee Club and Friendship Circle Lunches Report

Sheila and Easter still do their sterling work over the lunches and 30 people attended the last event, coffee club is growing too, quite a few more at Wednesday morning communion stay of a coffee and a chat. Well done and thank you and all the volunteers who help out.

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## Secretaries Report.

The Council has met on six occasions with an overall attendance rate of 86% - a very commendable rate, and all members are thanked for their regular attendance. One member joined - our new Curate - the Rev Trevor Meardon, and there was one resignation - John Gardner who was most sincerely thanked for all his hard work for the church and the Council. Jo Hamilton joined us for the meeting on 16 March to explain the Archbishop's call to Prayer *Thy Kingdom Come* (& to experience a meeting as she considered putting her name forward at the next APCM).

The main items of business have been:

- \* The election of the Hon Treasurer - Chris Caithness, and Hon Sec - The Revd Nick Williams
- \* The future plans of the White Hall are developing as we plan to link up with the councils plans around Arnside shops and Glencoyne Square.
- \* The appointment of a new Children's and Families Mission enabler - and Liz Ogbourne was appointed.
- \* Several meetings were dominated by the development of our Mission Action Plan (Creating Connections). This was finally agreed at the March meeting and a copy sent to the diocese and the Bishop responded very enthusiastically.
- \* "Thy Kingdom Come" the Archbishop's call to pray is being developed.
- \* Through the Key Hole was a great success before Christmas, this year being done in house.
- \* There have been a number of discussions about our pattern of Worship and this is an APCM agenda item.
- \* The Suspension of the Benefice has been lifted - a compliment to our Vicar and to the parish as the diocese recognises the importance of the life and work of our Parish.
- \* This council voted to increase our giving to the work of the Diocese as requested by the diocese and all are to be congratulated in making this increase possible.

As your secretary I would like to thank all who have contributed and made my job a privilege to serve.

**Nick Williams (08 Apr 17)**

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## **‘Creating Connections’ Our Response and Commitment to the Diocesan Strategy.**

### **Who we are.**

We are a Church in transition! A gathering of people from diverse backgrounds seeking to create a warm welcome environment in which local people might encounter the living God in Jesus.

### **Our vision: examples**

To know Jesus, to grow in faith, and make him known in the community  
A safe place to encounter God where everybody is welcome  
To be generous and share what we have discovered in Jesus  
A community living in and walking out the Love of God in Jesus  
A community seeking to lead others back to God.  
Equipping believers with Faith for life

### **How we got to our Vision**

We spent three PCC meetings reviewing what we do already and why, looking forward to what we want to do and why.

A SWOT analysis was a useful tool and aided our decision making.

We had a guided mediation where we were encouraged to imagine we had been away from the church for two years and as we entered in what did we see?

Some saw a thriving church full of people of all ages, everybody welcome

Some saw celebration and bunting!

Some a clean and presentable building.

### **We will achieve this by:**

#### **Connecting with God**

We will have at least three themed sermon series a year to equip us for Mission and to deepen our relationship with God.

Along side these we will gather on a Tuesday evening as ‘Life Group’ as a whole church (hopefully) to delve into the sermons at a deeper level, we will worship (using worship app) learn to listen to God and pray for each other and our community. (0-12 months)

#### **Connecting with each other**

We have moved after service coffee to the back of church for a trial of six weeks. We hope this will be less scary for visitors standing in a queue in a corridor and better supervision of our Children. Formal feedback asked from congregation at APCM in April. We will serve Fair trade coffee and tea in bio degradable cups, therefore alleviating any unnecessary (alone) time in the kitchen. (0-3 months).

We will re-instate Soup Lunches on the third Sunday of the month. (3-12 months)

Host a Quiz night welcoming other local churches.

We will provide a donation only Christmas Day Lunch this year and games for those in and outside the worshipping community.

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## **Connecting with our Communities**

Alongside our successful 'Christmas Through the Keyhole' week long activity we will put on an Easter Fun day on Holy Saturday inviting our three local schools..

We will seek to work again with the Community Church and provide a holiday club in August for local families. (0-6 months)

We will spend some thinking time around the space in our building and how it might be put to more regular use for those in our communities. (12-18 months)

We will commit to 'Make Lunch' two days a week in the Summer Holidays for local children that receive a free school lunch. (12-18 months)

We will begin a series of worship services (3 in the first year and building) for those effected by abuse. We are crafting a service with appropriate language and accessibility. We want to open this to the wider deanery and diocese eventually. (0-12 months)

We will add another school to our Open the Book offering. (0-3 months)

We will continue to keep Baby and Toddlers group free of charge so no one is excluded.

We will host and take part in the Old Vic's 'Meadows to Meaders' Drama rehearsals this year. (0-12 months)

Support those sitting on local community groups like Southmead Development Trust and Fourteen Fund (ongoing)

Host a yearly 'May' Quiz for Christian Aid night welcoming other local churches.

## **Growing New leaders**

We will continue to be a training church for Ordinands from Trinity. (0-3 years)

We are prayerfully discerning future leaders from the congregation for lay and ordained ministry. It is hoped the informal Life Group Gatherings will be an opportunity to explore ministry opportunities.

We will use cpas PCC tonight from April to better equip new members and give a fresh understanding to more longer term members. (0-12 months)

We will continue to support the monthly Altogether worship services as a platform for new leaders.

We will provide a training day before the APCM for all those involved in 'Creation Station' Children's church.(0-3 months)

We will encourage more lay led services during August. (0-6 months)

Ongoing training and evaluation for our developing Prayer Ministry team.

## **Making new disciples**

We will commit to ensuring our Worship services are accessible to new believers from our Alpha courses. We recognise a traditional Eucharistic service is a huge jump from informal Alpha and we are losing people as a consequence. Third Sunday contemporary service of the word may be the answer. We will trial this for three months from the April APCM.

We will commit to at least two Alpha courses each year, and follow on groups. (3-6 months)

## **Engaging the younger Generation**

We will commit to supporting Girls Group with time and resources, offering a Youth Alpha in September. (0-3 years)

We will build on our Links with (secular) Southmead Youth Club in the hope of sharing the youth Alpha with their (Christian) leader.(0-12 months)

We will encourage newer members of the congregation to join the leadership team.(0-6 months)

Resource Creation Station for our younger members and burgeoning youth.(0-3years)



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## Treasurers Report.

Looking at the audited accounts for 2016 you will see that income for the year has increased and we were able to meet the requested increase to our portion of the Parish Share .

The Planned Gift Aid giving has increased due to new people joining and committing to St Stephens .

The Gift aid return from HMRC was £2,288.00 , 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 and 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)













