



SACRED TRINITY CHURCH  
Deanery of Salford, Diocese of Manchester  
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2017/18

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Rector                    | Andy Salmon   |
| Lay Vice Chair:           | Marie Pattison  |
| Churchwardens:            | Haydn Worrall and Marie Pattison  |
| Deputy Churchwarden       | Les Kott  |
| Treasurer:                | Neil Worthington  |
| Gift Aid Secretary:       | Neil Worthington  |
| PCC Secretary:            | Lorna Cook  |
| Reader Emeritus           | David Winston   |
| Deanery Synod Rep         | Neil Worthington & Marie Pattison   |
| Safeguarding Co-ordinator | David Winston   |
| Sides people              | Margaret Kott, Andy Blyth, Lee Hewitt,<br>Geoff Babb, Douglas Cochran,<br>David Winston |
| Sacristan                 | Margaret Kott   |
| Electoral Roll Officer:   | Rebecca Craven  |

Other Council Members:

Les Kott (2019)

Margaret Kott (till 2020)

Lorna Cook (2020)

Melanie O'Neill (2017)

Jumaima Ede (2020)

Michaela Salmon (2019)

Honorary Clergy: Rev Rebecca Craven (NSM)

The PCC accounts are held at;

Co-operative Bank, Delf House, Skelmersdale WN8 6GH

## **Annual Report of the Rector 2017-18**

At Sacred Trinity we've had another eventful year. We continue to be a growing church. We grew in 2017 in numbers on a Sunday and in such categories as Easter communicants, despite losing a few people who have moved away. We are in the City Centre and subject to quite a lot of "churn", so we will always have to work really hard at welcoming new people.

In our current Mission Action Plan from July 2016 we identified the following priorities:

1. A warm welcome that helps build community.
2. To develop better links between local music scene and our worship, to develop Community Choir.
3. To offer opportunities to explore faith and ask questions.
4. To develop our support of prophetic calls for a better, more just world.
5. To better understand and support the more disadvantaged in our community, through improved links with Friars School, through CSCA and work with the homeless alongside the Winter Night Shelter.

We have done well with these priorities but as always there is more to do. We may well need to do a new plan this year and we will want to address the question of how we can reach out to the young adults that live in our community. We are a fairly young congregation compared to most Anglican churches but we aren't having enough impact on the people in their twenties who are the majority of people in our parish. This year we are likely to have an additional 4,500 people move into our parish. That is a tremendous opportunity.

A small group of us are going to visit some other church buildings to look at how they've made adaptations, thinking about what we might do with our building. It is getting a little tired now and we are going to have to find the resources for some major work that can enhance our building for mission.

This year has seen the end of funding for a full-time worker for Chapel Street Community Arts and it was very sad to say goodbye to Chris. However the arts will continue to be important to us here. We also said goodbye to Geoff and Julia who'd been busy elsewhere most Sunday mornings but who were an important support to us.

As usual I want to offer my thanks to everyone. I want to record my thanks to my churchwardens, Marie & Haydn, to Margaret & Les for their continued support and help, to Neil, our treasurer, to Rebecca, to Chris and Chapel Street Community Arts, to our Bell Ringers, to Tony and Manchester School of Samba, to Kolyn, in his various roles, Luca (and before her Bea) our TFG volunteer. I also want to thank the Booth Trustees and the Booth Charities for their continued support.

As I write this I we have just celebrated Easter. Holy Week and Easter went really well, with many people involved. It was lovely to see so many people in church on Easter Sunday and I hope and pray that we can continue to build the community of God in this place, so that we are able to keep worshipping God and serving the people. In Experience Easter one of the children described the feelings of the women at the tomb on Easter morning as being "gob-smacked". I pray that we will also be gob-smacked by the God who continues to surprise us.

Rev Canon Andy Salmon, Rector

## **Report for AGM**

**Rebecca Craven, Honorary Assistant Priest**

**March 2018**

Looking back through my diary there seems to have been lots of celebration – beer and carols, Epiphany party, pancake party and birthday celebrations.

We had two Exploring Faith courses for enquirers this year. These have developed into a lovely opportunity for a very diverse group of people to share a simple meal and develop new friendships as well as asking and discussing probing questions about Christianity.

Each month we have tried to do a “little action to change the world”. These ranged widely across trying to be more open about mental health; reducing our use of plastics; changing our energy supply from fossil fuels to renewable energy and bringing socks for the homeless.

We are part of a group of churches in Salford supporting Christian Aid and I represent us there. This year we had a short walk along the Bridgewater canal and many people kindly sponsored me! We raised £1,200 between us. We also lobbied outside Sainsbury’s on Regent Road. Although Sainsbury’s was the UK’s first and the world’s biggest retailer of Fairtrade, they may be moving away from Fairtrade now and we were asking them to think again. We decided to leave quietly when the police were about to be called to move us on! Whatever next?

## **Safeguarding Report 2017/2018**

Our safeguarding policies have been reviewed this year. The PCC have gone through all the documents and we are currently in the process of reviewing the groups that use the church.

We welcome children and vulnerable adults to church but don’t have any activities where they are separate from other people. All our clergy have up to date checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service.

David Winston

Safeguarding Officer

## **Luca Lenkey Time for God Volunteer 2017-2018**

Voluntary work is really important for me in my whole life, so I am very thankful for this year in Sacred Trinity Church. I began my TFG (Time for God) year here in September 2017. The church is offering lots of different activities so my tasks are very varied.

On Monday evening I am helping with our Community Choir. First I am setting up the church for the practice, giving a warm welcome and making some tea and coffee for the members of the choir. Then I join in singing. These occasions are always very nice and the choir is growing.

Some early Monday mornings I am serving as volunteer at the Winter Night Shelter, where we cleaning in the church and collecting the laundry after the night. We are also offering a little breakfast for the homeless people. I like volunteering for the night shelter project because my approach to the homeless people has absolutely changed. I can understand them better and enter into their feelings. I am so grateful for this.

On Tuesday morning we have Morning Prayer in church. It is good to start the day with it. After that I usually help in the church office and prepare for the Sunday morning with the children. At lunchtime the church is always open, we are there for visitors to come in, to give them a warm welcome and to make cups of tea.

On Wednesday I'm attending either camera club or the painting group. I always enjoy both. And I have already started to do watercolour painting. It has become my new hobby, I really like doing it.

We start our day with prayer on Thursday mornings then I do some office work and help to set up the church for the activities (if we have them in the evening). For example we have film night on the second Thursday in the month and often have Exploring Faith.

Thursday lunchtimes I spend in the chaplaincy of Salford University. Here I am helping Kim Wasey, the Chaplain, with various tasks. We have communion at 1.00pm and after that we always have a talk with the students. I like working with Kim here because I can get to know new people

Before our Sunday morning service I help to set up the church and prepare for the children's activity. So I am doing some work with the children during the service where we are treating Bible stories in a playful way, playing games and doing crafts together. Unfortunately we haven't got many children in our congregation, but we always have a nice time.

And we also have a project for the homeless people on Sunday afternoon from November to April. It's called "Safe Space", where we are offering some toast and soup and playing board games with them. These projects with the homeless people helped me a lot, as I have already mentioned because I can be more appreciative and recipient to them.

I am more than grateful to God for this year. I am really enjoying my time here at Sacred Trinity Church and I have already got lots of new experience.

## **Church Warden's report 2017/2018**

The church continues to be well used by the local community, exhibitions. Regular users of the building are Vikings, Manchester School of Samba, Misol Migrant Solidarity, and Ara: as well as the Flat Iron Community Choir. Sacred Harp Singers have stopped meeting in the church and gone to the Kings Arms pub. Manchester Gay Christian Group thanked us for many years of support and welcome and have stopped meeting as they now feel they are welcome in churches and don't need a separate gathering; which was a lovely thing to hear. Other reports will cover our new Open Table Service on the third Sunday evening which offers a special welcome to LGBTQIA+ folks and their allies.

We have hosted exhibitions from Kol and Chapel Street Community Arts. As well as 'one off' gigs we have had the Acoustic Amnesty events, raising funds for Amnesty International and other charities.

We have said goodbye to Chris from Chapel Street Community Arts. Due to lack of funding, CSCA can no longer keep a staff member and will not be renting office space for one. We wish Chris well and thank him for his contribution to the life of the community.

We have continued to work with the Great Manchester Together Night shelter to provide Safe Space, a warm and welcoming place for homeless people on a Sunday afternoons during the cold winter months. Attendance at this has not been as popular as last year but is a good thing to provide.

As regards the church building:

In the early part of the year a damp patch on the office floor was noted. A plumber was quickly called and a very small leak caused by the water pipe rubbing against a joist. The pipe was repaired very quickly but there was considerable water damage. Fortunately this is covered by our insurance and they organised the clean up and the repair of the floor and replacing the carpets. Unfortunately the drying out took several weeks but all is now good.

During the summer the PCC decided to replace the gas central heating boiler. Although the boiler still works our heating bills are rising as its efficiency decreases and the likelihood of it breaking down increases. Estimates were sought and the different proposals evaluated. The Booth Trust kindly agreed to pay for the work, but unfortunately it has not started yet.

Quinquennial report has been received and fortunately for such an old building all is well. Some concerns were raised about the grave stones, which make up the path around the church, being uneven and our lightning conductor. We are in contact with the local authority and our insurers about these matters.

An Asbestos Management Survey has been undertaken.

Considering possible changes to the building and how it may be used in the future a Building sub-group, consisting of Neil, Andy, Hayden & Sue McGrath, have met & have a few ideas & plan on visiting other similar churches.

May we record our thanks to Neil for his sterling work as Treasurer; Kolyn for keeping the place clean and tidy; Tracey in her admin work and communications; Lorna for her efficient work as Secretary; the bell ringing team for ringing out our presence every Sunday; Les and Margaret who continue to give generously of their time and skills; Luca for all her hard work and lovely gentle presence; David for his hard work in practising, planning and playing enriching the musical life of the church as well as leading the Flat iron choir; The flat iron choir themselves for their contribution to Easter and Christmas Celebrations. Our final thanks to Andy and Rebecca for all the hard work they do week after week and for the spiritual guidance they give us all.

May God bless us all and our service in the Church.

Marie Pattison and Haydn Worrall  
Church Wardens.

### **Secretary report for APC – 15.04.18**

During the year the PCC have, amongst other items, continued to consider the Mission Action Plan and the general maintenance of the church building, together with a regular review of the finances of the PCC. Safeguarding together with Health & Safety are now set topics on the agenda.

There have been six PCC meetings in 2017, together with the Annual Parish Meeting. In addition, the Standing Committee have met on five occasions in 2017. Copies of the PCC meeting minutes and the notes of the Standing Committee meetings are available for inspection.

I wish to express my thanks to everyone that has contributed at these meetings and the research behind the scenes that very often goes on unacknowledged, which enable the church to function.

Lorna Cook

## **Kolyn Amor ('The Altær')**

Before I proceed, please forgive me for taking the liberty of stretching the 'annual' definition of this report, as I don't think I managed to produce one for 2017.

If a change is supposed to be as good as a rest, then I should be utterly revitalized after the past eighteen months or so! I have to confess that from my experience I am yet to be convinced by the wisdom or validity of this particular 'Proverb' but only time will tell... And speaking of time, according to Thomas Hardy it "changes everything except something within us which is always surprised by change." There's being surprised and there's being surprised- and believe me, I have been surprised! And I have experienced many life-changing changes, both practically and personally. One simple practical example of this (though far from straightforward at the time) was moving accommodation three times in six months. Not something I would recommend if you want a quiet life! On a personal level, suffice it to say that I've had to wrestle with things that have affected me deeply- and still do.

I say all this to give some kind of context to the fact that I may have seemed less involved with- or focused on- a number of things that ordinarily I would have been. Nevertheless, I've still endeavoured to carry on carrying on as best as I could. I've done my best to keep the church clean and tidy week by week, ArA has continued month by month as have the meetings of the roleplayers, and artistic opportunities have been pursued- not least in continuing to work closely with Manchester Metropolitan University. And throughout, I hope that I have been able to give help and support wherever and whenever I could to the life and people of Sacred Trinity in one way or another. And I thank you all for the help and support that you have given- and continue to give- to me.

"Movement is life, and it is well to be able to forget the past and kill the present by continual change", wrote Jules Verne. I'm not sure how much I agree with him. Life does indeed inevitably move on, lessons can be learned from the past though I don't personally think that it can be- or should be- completely forgotten, and surely by simply killing the present we can negate the innate potential of the here and now. Change will indeed come- that much is true. But I put my past, present and future into the hands of the only One who can truly proclaim: "I am the Lord, and I do not change." Malachi 3:6

## **Musical Director's report 2018**

In this report I will describe what I have done as musical director over the course of 2017 - 2018 , I list what I believe to be my achievements and describe some plans for the future.

### **What does the musical director do?**

- I do about 12 hours work for the church playing for the Sunday service, programming music for future Sundays, practicing pieces for current and future repertoire, preparing for the choir rehearsals and promoting the choir via social media. I described this work in more detail in last year's report.
- In addition to the activities described last year, I now choose music, practice and lead singing for our Monthly Taize service and for our Open Table service.

### **Achievements**

- The re-organisation of evening services has provided an opportunity to add more music to our repertoire especially Taize chants and the gentler sort of hymns suitable for evening worship.
- We receive positive feedback about the Taize service and the service is becoming increasingly popular.
- The community choir grew rapidly through 2017 until several long standing members moved away, or changed jobs during the summer. This meant that the choir that reconvened in September was half the size of the one that took a break at the end of July. The choir is now larger than it was at the same time last year in spite of the fact that the choir now charges members to attend rehearsals. This money is growing a small fund that we can spend on buying new music. I took over running our Facebook page when Bea left and have recorded the choir and posted the video on Youtube. We have many more people interested on our "Meetup page", a web portal for people looking for social activities, and several people have come from "Meetup" to join the choir. The choir is growing again and has just appeared on Salford City Radio which will hopefully boost our profile. I would like to encourage anyone in the church with a Facebook page to follow the choir and share our posts in order to spread news of what we do widely through social media.
- I have expanded the choir's repertoire and each of the choir's repertoire pieces are practiced on a rotating basis while we continue to add new pieces.
- The choir is attracting more opportunities for gigs. We have two coming up in April.

### **Thanks to...**

- I continue to enjoy positive supportive relationships with the church leaders and I am grateful for this. Luca Lenkey helps me enormously by making sure that the church is open, ready for choir practice and that there is Tea, Coffee and biscuits available to welcome people. Luca also makes sure that there are enough copies of

music for choir members. Luca's role is especially important because I have to come from Stockport and this means that I am often running on the last minute.

## **Future plans**

- The glass paneling enclosing the Organ needs to be removed to enable service access to the instrument. This is no easy task, but the Organ is one of the churches most important and valuable assets and would be very expensive to repair if it began to deteriorate.
- My long term goal for the choir is for it to become self sustainable, a useful step towards this would be to grow the core support by recruiting new members and turning existing core members into staunch supporters.
- I want to introduce a new mass setting for ordinary time soon.
- The andromeda Galaxy is heading towards the Milky Way at a rate of 110 Km/s and will collide with us some time in the in the next 4 billion years. We must begin planning for this at once.

## **MUG Report, 2018**

As usual, the MUGs have had another good year and we are pleased to say that the celebrations for our 70th year as a student ringing society have gone very well.

In the last year there have been 30 recorded performances at Sacred Trinity, including 29 quarter peals and 1 full peal by a visiting band.

We have rung to end our 69<sup>th</sup> and 70th Dinner weekends, to celebrate St George's Day and Trinity Sunday, for the Booth Charities Annual Commemoration Service, to send birthday compliments to our members and associates and to bring on individuals in their ringing exploits. We also rang two quarter peals to remember the victims of the Manchester Arena attack and to show our strength and resilience as a city and as a community.

Recruitment this year has been very good, with two very capable new students, one student 'on loan' from Leeds university while he completes a year in industry and we have also adopted a southern ringer who moved to Manchester for work; all of whom have been great assets to the society.

With our new teaching skills gained in the previous year, we have been able to hold sessions at Trinity for complete beginners from the local area (prior to our usual practice) and these lessons have been going very well.

We continue to both give and receive support to/from other towers in the Manchester Branch such as Fallowfield and Stretford and we thank them for their invaluable help with the advancement of our band. Tuesday practice nights are typically well attended, with ringing ranging from handling skills to complicated method splicing on all 8 bells.

This year our bells were inspected by John Taylor & Co. and were deemed to be in good condition, with a few suggestions for improvement and general maintenance.

When we receive their official report we may begin making any necessary adjustments.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed many social occasions such as ringing competitions across the North West; tours around greater Manchester, South Yorkshire and the Calder Valley; annual attendance at the Northern Universities Association weekend; and singing loudly but badly at the Beer and Carols service at Christmas. Our mascot, Gerald the Giraffe, has also enjoyed participating in these events alongside us!

This new MUG year, we welcome a new committee to take the reins of the society and bring us forward as a band and we especially welcome our new student Ringing Master, James, and wish him luck in the year to come.

We would like to thank the church for their continued support in allowing us to participate in such events and integrate with the wider community so effectively.

We look forward to the coming year and all the challenges and rewards that it will bring.

### **Annual Financial Review 2017 from our Treasurer, Neil Worthington**

Following changes in the Statement of Recommended Practices 2005 and Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the PCC elected to provide financial statements on a Receipts and Payments basis as the Council's turnover falls well below the threshold for production on an accrual basis.

2017 was something of a year of consolidation for our church, following the previous year's investment in resources such as a piano, new vestry furniture and new and more economical lighting. The programme of investment in lighting has continued, and repairs or replacements have been necessary for other equipment, such as fire extinguishers. Our income has held up well but our expenditure has increased.

### **Incoming Resources**

Regular giving by our congregation has stagnated somewhat. Receipts in 2017 were little changed compared with 2016. Delays in processing income tax refund claims have also affected our overall income. General donations from visitors and others continued to grow; as in previous years this is largely because of the church's very visible Donations Box, the gift of Mrs Margaret Kott.

We continue to reclaim as much as possible of the income tax paid by our parishioners and visitors, but it is a slow process. At the end of 2017 we were still awaiting money owed to the church for both the June and the September quarter. We make full use of the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS), despite its complexity, and we recover tax on almost every donation received. GASDS is particularly important now that personal allowances for income tax have risen, to the

point where many of our congregation no longer pay enough tax for the church to reclaim it through the standard scheme. I am very grateful to those members of the PCC who count our cash income each week, and to the Gift Aid staff at Church House for their help and expertise.

Our rental income, from letting community groups and musicians use church space, rose by an impressively high amount (over £3,000), but income from Traidcraft fairly traded products fell, again. Traidcraft fairly traded products earned just £429 but we spent £530 on replacement stock, a net loss of £101. In part this will have gone on the tea and coffee provided after Sunday morning services, and other hospitality (e.g. to the homeless). Nevertheless, the PCC will have to find better ways of promoting our Traidcraft stock, and review the products we order.

Despite the first increase in the Bank of England's base rate in a decade, the interest rates available for our reserves have sunk even lower. Our reserves are still invested through the Church of England Deposit Fund but now earn just 0.2%. We have not earned any interest on our bank current accounts for several years now. The PCC is considering an alternative Fund within the Church of England scheme, one that invests in Government securities (known as "gilts").

## **Resources Expended**

The PCC has again ended the year with much less money than at the start. Two reasons stand out. We had an unusually high gas bill in the summer, because our gas supplier finally used an actual reading rather than an estimate. We also suffered a delay in receiving our income tax claim under the Gift Aid schemes. However, we have continued to invest in our building, our equipment and other resources such as prayer and Bible study material, extra hymn books and new Mass settings. Our wage bill has also increased, in line with our investment in people: a Director of Music, a part time administration assistant, and our "Time for God" volunteer. We make sure that everyone we employ, even indirectly (such as our cleaner), receives at least the Real Living Wage, as recommended by the Living Wage Foundation.

Our Parish Share rose in 2017 and will rise again in 2018. Once again we managed to pay it in full. We are very grateful to the Booth Trustees, and to the foresight of Humphrey Booth the Elder and Humphrey Booth the Grandson, for paying our annual insurance premium and helping with major bills. 2017 saw another burst pipe, this time in the church office, which meant yet another claim for water damage and repair work.

We set aside a tithe of our income from renting out church space to assist various charities at local, national and international levels. In 2017 we paid £1,200 towards the work of Chapel Street Community Arts, a charitable project based in our church. It tackles some of the problems caused by social deprivation in our parish and the surrounding area. Other charities helped in 2017 were the Booth Centre for homeless people, the Student Christian Movement and Christian Aid. We continued to provide a "safe space" for homeless people on Sunday afternoons, as part of the Diocese's wider Winter Night Shelter project.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Parish invests its surplus balances with the Central Board of Finance (CBF) Church of England Deposit Fund and we continue to retain the (very modest) quarterly interest payments in the account. We had to draw £6,000 from the general reserve fund in 2017, and we will draw a further £4,000 in 2018 to ease cash flow.

If you would like to see our actual accounts please ask.