
Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2017



Chichester Road, Croydon, CR0 5NQ
www.stmatthew.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1132508

AGENDA

FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ST MATTHEW, CROYDON. SUNDAY 29th APRIL 2018 AT 11.30AM IN THE PARISH CHURCH

Opening Prayers

Election of Churchwardens

Meeting Close



AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW, CROYDON. SUNDAY 29th APRIL 2018 FOLLOWING THE PARISH MEETING

Apologies for Absence

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 30th April 2017
Matters Arising

Reports for the year

Annual Report and Accounts - pages 9-28

Adoption of Report and Accounts

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Electoral Roll

Report from the Electoral Roll Officer

Resignations and Elections

1. Deanery Synod 2. Parochial Church Council 3. Duty Wardens 4. Sidespersons

Fabric of the Church

Report on the Fabric is included in the written reports

Written Reports

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Vicar's Comments

Churchwarden's Response

Closing Prayer

PARISH MEETING HELD IN ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ON SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2017 AT 11.35AM.

37 members were present; the meeting was chaired by the Vicar, the Revd. Simon Foster.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The meeting was held in accordance with the Churchwardens Measure 2001.

ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Stephen Collingwood, proposed by David Williams, seconded by Paul Parmenter and Rohini Abhayaratne, proposed by Josephine Ahanonu, seconded by Christine Akinluyi were declared elected.

The chairman thanked Edith Chiwuzie, the retiring churchwarden for all her good work, Rohini Abhayaratne for replacing her and Stephen Collingwood for fulfilling the office for a further year.

The meeting closed at 11.40am.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ON SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2017 AT 11.41AM.

37 members were present; the meeting was chaired by the Vicar, the Revd. Simon Foster.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Gillian Bridger, Stephen Collingwood, Florence Fitzhugh, Paul Parmenter, Alison Radford, Richard Tweed and Ann Warr.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ON 24 APRIL 2016

The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Jennifer Ridley questioned the lack of house group reports and the chairman stated that these were contained within the Vicar's report.

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer, Terry Mitchell, presented the annual accounts for his 16th time. He explained that the surplus of £5,987 would pass to the diocese as previously agreed. Terry thanked all of the finance team and particularly Vera Foster who is standing down.

Alan Hollands recognized that the situation was tight and asked if the church is concerned over rising costs – it was explained that this was under close review by the finance team. Terry Mitchell proposed the acceptance of the accounts, seconded by Judith Spencer-Gregson and carried nem con.

Terry was then thanked for all his hard work on the accounts and reports.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

It was proposed by Terry Mitchell, seconded by Judith Spencer-Gregson, and unanimously agreed that Kreston Reeves of Worthing, West Sussex be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner.

ELECTORAL ROLL

David Williams reported that, in line with Church of England regulations, we had advertised for additions to the roll. We have 142 members on the roll – a net gain of 5. The roll had been displayed on the church notice board. The chairman thanked him for his work on the roll.

RESIGNATIONS AND ELECTIONS

1. Deanery Synod

This is the year when all the positions are up for re-election. Freddie Eden, Lucasta Grayson and Judith Spencer-Gregson are standing down. They were thanked for all their contributions by the chairman. There are four vacancies and four nominations and so the following were duly elected:

John Ingman – proposed by Christopher Grayson and seconded by Freddie Eden

James Reid – proposed by Vikki Waldron and seconded by Jane Passfield

Richard Tweed – proposed by David Williams and seconded by Jane Passfield

David Williams – proposed by Stephen Collingwood and seconded by Paul Parmenter

2. Parochial Church Council

There are three vacancies and three nominations and so the following were duly elected.

Laura Easton – proposed by Judith Mitchell and seconded by Bose Akadiri

Jane Passfield – proposed by Pat Goss and seconded by Diane Bull.

Jan Williams proposed by Rohini Abhayaratne and seconded by Josephine Ahanonu.

3. Duty Wardens

The appointment of Michael Buckley, Edith Chiwuzie, Chris Grayson, John Ingman, Terry Mitchell, Jennifer Ridley, Judith Spencer-Gregson and Jeanne Wells was unanimously approved.

4. Sidespersons

The following were appointed: Rohini Abhayaratne, Abosede Akadiri, Emmanuel Akinluyi, Nicole Beling, Michael Buckley, Sue Collins, Florence Fitzhugh, Brian Martin, Erica Martin, Jeremy McLaughlin, Lesley Mead, Jane Passfield, Jennifer Ridley, Stephen Tucker, Richard Tweed, Kiru de Silva, Jeanne Wells and members of the Welcome Team. This was unanimously agreed.

FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

Details are included in the written reports. Simon thanked the fabric team and Christopher Grayson, the team chairman, for their sterling work.

WRITTEN REPORTS

1. Vicar's Report

Simon expressed his thanks to everyone who had helped with the church and its activities throughout the year.

2. Churchwardens' Report

The detailed churchwardens' report was included in the Annual Report. They thanked everyone for their help and support throughout the year.

3. Other

The Annual Report included written reports on all the main activities, and Simon Foster ran briefly through each one, reiterating the thanks in his annual written report to those involved, who were duly acclaimed by the meeting. There were opportunities for more volunteers to help – specifically on the Communications Team, Servers for 8.30 service, Young Church and the 10am Club (to serve tea and coffee).

Laura Easton raised the issue of distributing gift aid envelopes and it was agreed to make them more widely available.

Sonja Hawkins asked who was coordinating lifts to the church in Jeremy Savage's absence – Simon Foster agreed to seek volunteers.

VICAR'S COMMENTS

Simon Foster again expressed his heartfelt thanks to all who help in the life of St Matthew's, and remarked how fortunate the church was to have so many able members of the congregation willing to give their time and skills to its many and varied activities. He was encouraged that we were attempting to build the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

Michael Buckley thanked Simon Foster for all his good work on behalf of the parish. He also praised the quality of the paperwork produced by the church.

CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed at 12.34pm with a prayer.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL
PARISH CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW, CROYDON**

Registered Charity No. 1132508

**Annual Report and unaudited
Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council
For the year ended 31st December 2017**

Principal address:

St Matthew's Church of England Church
Chichester Road, Croydon CR0 5NQ

Incumbent:

The Reverend Simon Foster
The Vicarage
7 Brownlow Road
Croydon, CR0 5JT

Bankers:

(Current Account)
National Westminster Bank plc
40 Whitgift Centre
Croydon, CR9 3BQ

(Current & Deposit Account)
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

(Deposit Account)
CCLA Investment Management Ltd
The CBF Church of England Funds
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

Independent Examiner:

Janet Fautley
Kreston Reeves LLP
Chartered Accountants
A2 Yeoman Gate
Yeoman Way, Worthing
West Sussex, BN13 3QZ

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

ST MATTHEW'S, CROYDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Aim and purposes

St Matthew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The vision statement of St Matthew's is:

Celebrating God's love throughout the whole community by what we believe and do.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church complex of St Matthew's and the two church bungalows in Chichester Road, Croydon.

Objects and activities

The PCC, a charity governed by the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 as amended and Church Representation Rules, is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community of St Matthew's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the Incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- ☐ Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- ☐ Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Matthew's church complex and the two bungalows.

Achievements and performance

The Vicar

We thank the Revd Simon Foster for all his work in both the church and the community. Revd Dr Richard Hinder, previously our Assistant Priest, now has the Bishop's Permission to Officiate, and helps on an occasional basis. Revid Simon Foster has also been licensed as the Priest in Charge of St Andrew's in Southbridge Road, Croydon during their interregnum and also taken over as supervisor of their assistant Priest, Revd Chidie Mbanude, Revd Chidiebere Mbanude has also taken services at St Matthew's Church when Revd Simon Foster has presided at St Andrew's.

Worship and prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

We welcome families into our church and provide a crèche and classes for children during the Sunday 10:00 am services. The said Eucharist at 08:30 am on Sundays and the Morning Prayer services during the week offer quieter more thoughtful services, while Evensong and Taize services provide strong musical themes. Special services are held to celebrate the seasons of the church year such as Christmas and Easter. Prayer and bible study and Lent groups are available, offering more informal environments. All are welcome to attend our regular services. During the year we held a number of Healing Services on the first Sunday of the month and All Age Services on the second Sunday. These have proved to be popular. We have also continued with "Messy Church" on the second Tuesday of each month for children and their parents and carers. Messy Church combines informal worship with craft and games and ends with a meal.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. During the period, we have celebrated 8 baptisms and 1 funeral in church and 8 funerals taken at the crematorium.

Membership and attendance

There were 143 members on the Electoral Roll on 31st December 2017. The average Sunday attendance is 95 adults and 14 children under sixteen years of age.

Diocesan/Deanery Synods

One lay member of the PCC is a member of the Diocesan Synod and four lay members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church complex

Our church is open to the community for worship, prayer, study, social and other functions. We use the facilities to welcome people who are not necessarily regular members of our congregation to events such as Saturday coffee mornings and the shelter for the homeless during winter. The hall and other rooms are used by a wide range of groups as the Community Centre of the Park Hill community.

Our Fabric Team monitors the state of the church buildings and ensures that they are appropriately repaired and maintained. During the period, the main work that has been carried out on the church complex included the improvement of the sound system and bringing the two bungalows up to the current standards for letting – more details are contained in the Fabric Committee Report.

Pastoral care

During the year our Saturday coffee mornings have continued to provide a meeting place for the community. The reserved sacrament is taken to communicants in local care homes. Regular parcels of food and toiletries collected through the “Lord’s Larder” were sent to the West Croydon Refugee Day Centre. St Matthew’s hosted Croydon Churches Shelter for the Homeless on seven occasions during the winter.

Mission and evangelism

The small committee that St Matthew’s set up to consider the future giving for mission and evangelism recommended that St Matthew’s continued to support the Egyptian Diocesan Association. We have made a donation for the development of teaching for young people within Egypt. We continue to pray for that country.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community that it is. In particular we want to mention our Churchwardens Edith Chiwuzie (who stepped down in April 2017), Rohini Abhayaratne (from April 2017) and Stephen Collingwood who have worked

tirelessly on our behalf. While there are too many people to name everyone individually, Terry Mitchell must also be mentioned and thanked. As can be seen from this report, his work as Treasurer is an onerous one, and he has done it with great thoroughness and care. Steve Tucker has continued as Magazine Editor and is a member of the Communications Team.

Our finances

Detailed figures are provided in this annual report, but the main features of the year for our unrestricted funds may be summarized as follows:

Income	£000s
Giving by church members	81
Tax recoverable through Gift Aid	17
Hall lettings	32
Bungalow rent	10
Fundraising (net)	8
Other income	11
Total income	159
Expenditure	£000s
Parish Support Fund	80
Repairs	4
Depreciation	6
Wages:	10
Printing	11
Utilities	9
Service Costs and Clergy Expenses	3
Insurance Church	3
Other expenses	15
Bungalows	7
Total expenses	149
Surplus for the year before transfers	11

The bungalows are let commercially and we receive a regular monthly rental from both. They are managed by a local Estate Agent on our behalf.

In 2016 Southwark Diocese changed the way that parishes provide funds. Instead of a quota system they moved to the Parish Support Fund where parishes pledge money. St Matthew's traditionally has given the diocese more money than it receives and this will not change although the imbalance will be reduced. St Matthew's pledge was gratefully received by the diocese. The pledge for 2017 was also made and accepted by the diocese. Additionally the Parish had a surplus at the end of 2016 of £2,781 which was also passed to the Diocese in 2017.

In the year we were able, through special collections, to send £5,939 to Christian and secular charities (including tax recovered under the Gift Aid scheme):

CHARITIES	£
Crisis	276
Bishop of Southwark's Lent Appeal	2,147
Christian Aid Week	2,372
British Pakistani Christian Association	300
DEC Appeal	257
Christian Family Concern	156
Children's Society (Christingle)	181
Red Cross Hurricane Appeal	45
Mission to Seafarers	100
Barnabas Fund	105
TOTAL	5,939

Reserves Policy

At 31st December 2017 the PCC's reserves were: unrestricted reserves £157,055 (2016 - £143,461) endowment fund £800,00 (2016 - £760,000); restricted fund £18,051 (2016 - £20,384). The PCC has free reserves, comprising unrestricted funds, less fixed assets of £134,929 (2016 - £114,939).

The PCC has agreed a policy of maintaining a minimum reserve of cash, so that we can pay our bills as they arrive and to provide a cushion against any unexpected expenses. If the cash balance falls below £50,000, (agreed by PCC) no avoidable expenditure will be undertaken until the reserve has been restored.

Endowment Policy

The investments held are two freehold properties and cash and short term deposits. The freehold properties are valued on an annual basis. Trustees having regard to the liquidity requirements hold surplus funds on short term interest bearing deposit accounts set to achieve a rate of return at least equal to the cost of living increase as measured by the retail price index. Due to wider economic circumstances, deposit rates have been depressed and so this aim was not achieved. The investment funds held on deposit achieved an average rate of 0.50% compared to the retail price index of 2.5%.

Risk Management

The principal risks faced by the PCC are concerned with ensuring that the Health and Safety, Employment and Safeguarding of Adults and Children's policies of the Church are maintained. We also through the Finance Team ensure that all aspects of the finances of the church are dealt with in compliance with the rules of the Charities Act, SORP and Charity Commissioners. The Fabric Team reviews the repair and maintenance of both the church and the bungalows. All policies are reviewed by the PCC on a regular basis.

Plans for the future

The decision-making of the PCC is shaped by our Mission Action Plan (MAP). A Mission Development Group has started to meet to seek ways we can more effectively reach out to the community. We have also continued with Messy Church. Numbers have fluctuated but the signs are very encouraging that this will become a regular feature of our life and an important part of our outreach.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Matthew's the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent (our Vicar), churchwardens, the Reader and members elected by those on the electoral roll. The Treasurer is an ex-officio member and the Secretary is an elected lay member. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met 9 times during the year, with an average attendance of 80% and the Standing Committee met once. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life.

These committees are:

The Standing Committee, which is the only committee required under church law and is empowered to conduct the business of the PCC between meetings.

The Finance Team, which monitors our income and expenses, makes recommendations to the PCC concerning significant items and matters of policy.

The Fabric Team, which advises and oversees all matters relating to the buildings and grounds.

The Pastoral Team, whose objectives include, visiting the sick and bereaved and arranging events for the elderly and housebound.

The Social and Fellowship Team organizes a wide range of events with the aim of bringing fellowship and enjoyment to the community of St Matthew's.

The Fundraising Team organizes a wide range of events with the aim of raising funds for St Matthew's.

The Communications Team handles publicity and communications with the community and more widely through our website www.stmatthew.org.uk

The All-Age Worship Team organizes the all-age worship services of St Matthew's. The Young Church Leaders Team handles worship and teaching for the young of the parish.

All these teams report regularly to the PCC and further details of their activities are available in this report.

PCC membership

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting, or co-opted in accordance with Church Representation Rules.

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

Revd Simon Foster	
Rohini Abhayaratne (from April 2017)	Laura Easton (from April 2017)
Edith Chiwuzie (until April 2017)	Suzanne Collins
Stephen Collingwood	Faridah Eden (until April 2017)
Christopher Grayson	John Ingman
Terry Mitchell	Paul Parmenter
Alison Radford	James Reid
Stephen Tucker	Jane Passfield (from April 2017)
Carolyn Tweed	Richard Tweed
Jan Williams (from April 2017)	David Williams OBE

Thank you

None of what we do would be possible without the generous giving by members of our church which enables us to offer the love of Christ to the community. We are most grateful for all you give to us: in terms of your time, talents and money. God bless you all.

The Trustee's Report has been approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 20th March 2018 and signed by

Revd Simon Foster		Stephen Collingwood
Chairman of the PCC	and	Churchwarden

Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2017 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2016 £
Income						
<i>Donations and Legacies</i>	2a	109,356	804	-	110,160	104,294
<i>Other trading activities</i>	2b	5,736	-	-	5,736	11,752
<i>Income from Investments</i>	2c	10,476	-	-	10,476	20,919
<i>Church Activities</i>	2d	34,225	350	-	34,575	30,418
Total Income		159,793	1,154	-	160,947	167,383
Expenditure						
<i>Raising funds</i>	3a	2,354	-	-	2,354	440
<i>Church Activities</i>	3b	146,915	467	-	147,382	163,270
Total Expenditure		149,269	467	-	149,736	163,710
Net Income/(expenditure)		10,524	687	-	11,211	3,673
Gains on Investment assets				40,000	40,000	-
Gross Transfers between Funds	11	3,020	(3,020)	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		13,544	(2,333)	40,000	51,211	3,673
Total funds brought forward at 1 st January 2017		143,461	20,384	760,000	923,845	920,172
Total funds carried forward at 31st December 2017		157,005	18,051	800,000	975,056	923,845

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2017

	Notes	2017	2016
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	5	22,073	28,522
Investment Property	6	800,000	760,000
Total fixed assets		822,073	788,522
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	15,301	16,912
		85,528	85,264
		56,966	46,056
		157,794	148,232
Current Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	4,811	12,910
Net Current assets		152,983	135,323
Total assets less current liabilities		975,056	923,845
Funds			
Endowment funds	12	800,000	760,000
Restricted funds	12	18,051	20,384
Unrestricted funds	12	157,005	143,461
		975,056	923,845

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20th March 2018
and signed on its behalf

Revd Simon Foster
Chairman

T F Mitchell
Treasurer

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2017

1. Accounting policies

a. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the current Church Accounting Regulations together with applicable accounting standards and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice FRS 102 (effective 1 January 2015).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and under the going concern basis. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

b. Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest;

b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

c. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Donations and legacies

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due, and an inflow is probable.

Income from investments

Interest is accounted for as it accrues.

All other income

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold.

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December each year.

d. Resources used

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and are accounted for gross.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for when due. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Support Costs

Support costs are allocated to church activities within the SOFA

e. Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed properties of any kind are excluded from the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. All such expenditure is written off as it is incurred.

Movable church furnishings held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on

special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected. For inalienable property acquired prior to 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Individual items acquired since January 2000 have been capitalised in the accounts and depreciated over their useful economic life.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items under £4,500 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, over their expected useful lives. The rates generally applicable are:

Plant and Machinery	10% straight line
Fixture, fittings and equipment	10% straight line

f. Investment Property

In accordance with the SORP, the Church's freehold are held for long-term investment and are included in the balance sheet at their open market value. The surpluses or deficits on revaluation of such properties are transferred to the endowment fund. Depreciation is not provided in respect of freehold investment properties.

g. Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other Income are shown as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

2 Income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2017 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2016 £
2a Donations and Legacies					
Giving (Gift Aid)	61,525	-	-	61,525	63,379
Giving (Non Gift Aid)	6,618	-	-	6,618	6,372
Tax Recoverable	17,571	-	-	17,571	18,058
Gift Aid Donations	1,557	-	-	1,557	1,085
Services	7,891	-	-	7,891	9,479
Donations (Non Gift Aid)	1,720	-	-	1,720	4,343
Charity Vouchers	2,225	-	-	2,225	-
Floating Shelter	-	515	-	515	1096
Young Church	105	-	-	105	110
Compassion(UK)	-	289	-	289	372
	99,212	804	-	100,016	104,294
2b Other trading Activities					
Sundry Income	5,736	-	-	5,736	4,529
Fundraising	10,144	-	-	10,144	7,223
	15,880	-	-	15,880	11,752
2c Income from Investments					
Interest & Bungalow rents	10,476	-	-	10,476	20,919
	10,476	-	-	10,476	20,919
2d Income from church activities					
Church Hall lettings etc	31,225	-	-	31,225	29,068
Fees from weddings etc	744	-	-	744	1,255
Window repair	-	350	-	350	95
Parish Magazine sales etc	2,256	-	-	2,256	-
	34,225	350	-	34,575	30,418
Total Income	159,793	1,154	-	160,947	167,383

Income received in 2016 totalling £1,563 was attributable to restricted funds.

No income was attributable to the endowment fund.

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

3 Expenditure	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2017 £	TOTAL FUNDS 2016 £
3a Raising Funds					
Fundraising, Expenditure (Social Events)	2,294	-	-	2,294	368
Communications	60	-	-	60	72
	<u>2,354</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,354</u>	<u>440</u>
3b Church Activities					
Missionary & Charitable giving Compassion (UK)	-	360	-	360	360
<i>Ministry Costs:</i>					
Parish Support Fund	79,588	-	-	79,588	74,789
Clergy Costs	1,186	-	-	1,186	1,463
Upkeep of Services	1,126	-	-	1,126	2,199
Church Running expenses	20,443	-	-	20,443	31,853
Youth	312	-	-	312	569
Churchyard Upkeep	1,450	-	-	1,450	1,405
Sundry Expenses	5,917	-	-	5,917	3,056
Printing Costs	10,872	-	-	10,872	14,172
Bungalows	7,012	-	-	7,012	14,389
Fees	126	-	-	126	149
Floating Shelter	-	107	-	107	311
Sound System Repair	838	-	-	838	-
Depreciation	6,449	-	-	6,449	6,768
Examiner's Fees	675	-	-	675	706
Wages and Salaries	9,722	-	-	9,722	9,998
Admin Expenses	1,199	-	-	1,199	1,083
	<u>146,915</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>147,382</u>	<u>163,270</u>
Total expenditure	<u>149,269</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,736</u>	<u>163,710</u>

Expenditure in 2016 totalling £467 was attributable to restricted funds. No expenditure was attributable to the endowment fund

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

4	Staff Costs	2017	2016
		£	£
4a	Wages and Salaries	9,772	9,998

During the year the PCC employed an organist and a cleaner both part time, but no payment was large enough to attract social security costs. The PCC also employed a Parish Administrator whose payments did attract social security costs.

4b Payments to PCC members

The Parish Administrator was employed and paid a salary and is also a Trustee. This appointment was agreed by the Charity Commissioners. No other Trustee received any form of remuneration.

5 **Tangible fixed assets**

	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Costs			
At 1 January 2017	29,036	172,103	201,139
At 31 December 2017	29,036	172,103	201,139
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2017	25,166	147,451	172,617
Charge for the Year	2,904	3,545	6,449
At 31 December 2017	28,070	150,996	179,066
Net book value			
At 31 December 2017	966	21,107	22,073
At 31 December 2016	3,870	24,652	28,522

6 **Investments**

	Investment Property
Cost	
As at 1 January 2017	760,000
Gain on investment	40,000
At 31 December 2017	800,000
Net book value	
At 31 December 2017	800,000
At 31 December 2016	760,000

The freehold of the bungalows, situated in Chichester Road, is recorded at the open market value at the year end. The bungalows were valued by local estate agents who are managing agents of the bungalows therefore know their condition and rental yield. There was not believed to have been an increase in value of the bungalows during the year. The bungalows are let commercially. The bungalows are owned by St Matthew's. The South London Church Fund and the Diocesan Board of Finance act as Custodial Trustees. The assets cannot be sold by the PCC without the prior consent of the South London Church Fund & the Diocesan Board of Finance. The Parish is responsible for their upkeep although any income they generate is unrestricted

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2017

7 Analysis of Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	2017 £
Investment properties			800,000	800,000
Fixed assets-church use	6,635	15,438	-	22,073
Net Current assets	150,370	2,613	-	152,983
	<u>157,005</u>	<u>18,051</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>975,056</u>

8 Debtors

	2017 £	2016 £
Income Tax Recoverable	1,627	2,358
Prepayments & accrued income	7,589	8,230
Other debtors	6,085	6,324
	<u>15,301</u>	<u>16,912</u>

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017 £	2016 £
Accruals	4,377	12,890
Other Creditors	434	20
	<u>4,811</u>	<u>12,910</u>

10 Other Financial Commitments

As at 31st December 2017 the PCC had annual financial commitments as set out below:

	2017 £	2016 £
Equipment – Photocopier lease		
Within less than one year	9,881	9,881
Between two and five years	21,680	31,561
	<u>31,561</u>	<u>41,442</u>

11 Statement of funds

	Balance b/fwd 1 st Jan 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gain on Investment £	Transfers £	Balance c/fwd 31 st Dec 2017 £
Unrestricted funds						
General fund	143,461	159,293	(148,769)		3,020	157,005
	143,461	159,293	(148,769)		3,020	157,005
Restricted funds						
Kitchen	213	-	-		(213)	-
Chairs	18,245	-	-		(2,807)	15,438
Compassion (UK)	85	289	(360)		-	14
Floating Shelter	1,746	515	(107)		-	2,154
Window Repair	95	350			-	445
	20,384	1,154	(467)		(3,020)	18,051
Endowments						
Property	760,000	-	-	40,000	-	800,000
	760,000	-	-	40,000	-	800,000
Total funds	923,845	160,447	(149,236)	40,000	-	975,056

The restricted funds for the accessible toilet, accessible ramp, church heating, kitchen and chairs comprise the donations and grants received to purchase the assets, which are released to the general fund over the useful life of the asset, in line with the charities depreciation policy.

Compassion (UK) - Members of our Young Church raise funds to support Maria who lives in Indonesia. The funds are sent through Compassion (UK) with the shortfall being met out of the general fund.

The floating shelter - set up to support the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter project for the homeless in the local area.

The window repair fund consists of donations and expenditure on necessary repair work to the church windows.

The Endowment Fund comprises the two bungalows Numbers 1 & 3 Chichester Road, Croydon.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF St MATTHEW, CROYDON

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST MATTHEW, CROYDON

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 9-26.

Respective responsibilities of members and examiner

The charity's members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as members concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Janet Fautley

For and on behalf of Kreston Reeves LLP

Chartered Accountants

A2 Yeoman Gate

Yeoman Way Worthing

West Sussex BN13 3QZ

Date: 27th March 2018

Vicar's Report

Once again, we give thanks to our wonderful God and Father for every blessing we have received as his people. Let us never forget the privilege of being children of God and part of his world-wide family, not least having such a beautiful place in which to gather to worship him, and having such a warm and loving fellowship which truly expresses his love. As our nation and the world as a whole moves on its way beset by crises, wars and rumours of wars, with much pain and suffering in so many places, let us never take for granted the many benefits we enjoy living in this part of the world.



Alongside privileges and benefits come responsibilities. First is our obligation to love the Lord with all we have and are; to seek first his kingdom and righteousness and to work with him for the building up of his church and kingdom. This means that our worshipping life and devotion to God must come before everything else. When Christ is truly at the centre of our lives, then everything else takes its proper place. There have been many memorable and significant times when the Lord has met with us as we praise him. It is very easy to allow our commitment to being a part of a worshipping community to be overtaken by the cares and concerns of our daily life. We need to make every effort to maintain our loving devotion to the Lord and never to let our hearts grow cold or distant from him.

I'm more grateful than words can express to those who minister in the church. There are too many people to mention you all by name, but Paul Parmenter, Alison Radford, our Readers, Trevor Puttifer, our Ordinand on placement, Carolyn Tweed and Sue Collins, our SPA's deserve special mention, as do Steve Collingwood and Rohini Abhayaratne, our Churchwardens. Terry Mitchell, who is of course both Administrator and Treasurer, is always willing to go the extra mile. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Those who chair our various teams, Alison, who has taken over chairing the Comms Team, Lucasta Grayson - Social and Fellowship, Jane Passfield - Fundraising, Richard Tweed - Finance, Chris Grayson - Fabric also deserve particular thanks. The Pastoral ministry of the church is well supported by those who visit and take Holy Communion to care homes and individuals. Our Home Groups have continued - many thanks to all those who have led these groups and opened their homes so willingly. Thanks to all who help with Messy Church, of whom there are a great number; this is the most significant area of the church in terms of outreach and impacting people who would otherwise have little or no connection with the church.

Steve Tucker continues to do a fantastic job editing our magazine - we have had very positive comments during the year! Thanks also to all those who have served on the PCC. Lesley Mead has also done sterling work running the kitchen and sorting out the coffee morning rota. We still see Richard Hinder who remains a regular worshipper and from time to time has helped with services - I confess I miss seeing more of him!

The year 2017 will live long in my own memory, as in June I was approached by our Archdeacon and asked if I could "look after" St Andrew's church during their upcoming interregnum until the long term future of the church was decided. So since September, I have been running two parishes. I was officially made their Priest-in-Charge at a small licensing ceremony in the chapel at St Matthew's House on Tuesday 26th September. They have an excellent Curate - Fr Chidi Mbanude, who is an ex-Roman Catholic priest from Nigeria. Their worship style is a good deal 'higher' than St Matthew's with incense used every Sunday, so it's been an interesting learning experience for me! The people are very warm and friendly. They are also quite anxious about the future of the church, and as we walk alongside them for the time being, please uphold the people of St Andrew's in your prayers. Terry Mitchell has taken over on a temporary basis as their treasurer, which has involved literally going the extra mile!

St Andrew's church has close links with St Andrew's School, the only other C of E secondary school in the Borough. The school has been going through a difficult time in recent years, and I have been offering as much support as I can in terms of chaplaincy. Once again, please pray for Kerry Targett, the Head Teacher, and all at the school. Kerry is moving to a new school at the end of the summer term, so please also pray for the right replacement for her.

Looking back over the year, we once again hosted the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter, under the expert guidance of Jon Highton, our Coordinator. As always, it is a huge undertaking involving a great number of people, young and old. It is noteworthy that many of the guests remarked on how welcoming we are as a church, and that they are treated with respect and dignity. It is the least we can do. The needs of the homeless seem to be greater not less with each passing year.

We have had some memorable social events as well as events designed to raise much needed funds. We have enjoyed a variety of talks, Harvest and Christmas lunches, as well as lunches at the Vicarage and our usual Senior Parishioners Lunch, all of which have been much appreciated. Of particular note on the fundraising side was the annual quiz and supper, the Christmas Fair, including a magnificent grotto complete with Father Christmas, and a

concert given by Caroline Jaya-Ratnam and two friends from the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Other highlights included a performance by Utopians Unlimited of Gilbert and Sullivan's Patience in February 2017, and Pirates of Penzance this year. They are already booked for 2019, performing the Mikado.

Mission Action Planning continues; many thanks to John Ingman for his support with this. If you have any ideas as to how we can effectively share God's love with the people of the parish, please don't keep those to yourself! We are truly blessed to be in God's kingdom, which is both now and yet to come. As we live out our lives in the light of God's love, may we encourage one another to follow in the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ and so give our God all the glory.

With my love and prayers. Simon.

Churchwardens' Report

The warden's report is mainly an expression of thanks to the commitment of talented persons who are essential for the well-running the church and a summary of their achievements. We could not undertake our duties without the work done by all those who give their time and talents to the life of the church community. We are supported by Simon our vicar, Terry our administrator and by the PCC, who are the Trustees and are elected by the parish and debates the running of the church and the parish. Michael Strange continues as our excellent Director of Music, which is an essential element of most of our services.

I ask then that you can join us in thanking the members of teams and committees for their work and effort for "Messy Church", fabric, finance, kitchen, pastoral needs, social events and communications. We thank those who sign-up on rotas as sides' people, deputy wardens, Young Church, "welcomers" and readers during services. We are looking for people to help as servers and sacristans.



There was an wonderful range of events held at St Matthews during last year. They included a production by the Utopians of Patience, George Dillon's reading of St Matthew's gospel by candlelight. We had Richard's 'To be a Pilgrim' in March, Simon's 60th in April, a South-Asian evening in June, Caroline Jaya-Ratnam's Celebrity Concert and a Patronal lunch in September, a Quiz Night and our harvest lunch in October and a very

successful Christmas Fayre and Christmas Tree Festival at the end of November.

The premises are used by numerous other organisations like two of Croydon's choral societies, the Bach Choir and Croydon Philharmonic, the Alzheimer's Society, the U3A, dance groups as well as the Guide and Scout groups and Archbishop Tenison's School.

Cleaning and light bulb replacements are now done by contractors as we should not always rely on volunteers for such demanding work. Christopher Grayson with the fabric team is reorganising and tidying up storage systems in the building and preparing for the installation of double glazing the hall. He is also initiating the programme for renewing the main roof.

On behalf of all the members of St Matthew's we thank Simon Foster, our vicar, for his enthusiasm, dedication and encouragement in his ministry and pastoral support to all in the parish and we especially thank Mary his wife and his family for the time and work that they contribute.

Stephen has been a churchwarden for many years. Edith has retired but continues to help in so many other roles. Rohini has kindly stepped in to her shoes and is being very supportive.

Stephen Collingwood Rohini Abhayaratne.

Finance Team

The Finance Team met five times during the year and was chaired throughout by Richard Tweed. The Team is required by the PCC to monitor all aspects of the church's finances, including in particular the annual budget, the periodic accounts and the Annual Accounts and the financing of capital projects and advise accordingly. The Team also organizes the annual Stewardship Campaigns.



Richard Tweed

Gift Aid Report

In the calendar year 2017 people gave regularly to St Matthew's by Gift Aid, and Free Will Offering. The amount of tax recovered on the Gift Aid donations during the year was £17,571 and this made a very significant contribution to the income of the church. St Matthew's can claim back twenty five pence in the pound.

giftaid it

St Matthew's are most grateful to all who have made donations either through the Gift Aid scheme or through Free Will Offering during the year. If you would like to start giving in a way that will enable St Matthew's to reclaim the tax or you wish to increase your existing giving then please have a word with me.

Terry Mitchell

A Safe Church

We aim to create safe environments, where children and young people are nurtured and protected; and where all people, and especially those who may be vulnerable for any reason, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey with encouragement and in safety.

We follow the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and Church of England policy and practice.

Our two safeguarding officers are:

- Carolyn Tweed
- Judith Spencer-Gregson



If you have any concerns then please contact one of our safeguarding officers. They can be contacted via the parish office.

Our safe-guarding policy and the guidelines “A Safe Church” are held in the parish office.

Carolyn Tweed Judith Spencer-Gregson

Communications Team

The Communications Team is responsible for all aspects of communication both between church members (via Pews News, the Weekly Link email and the Parish Magazine) as well as the wider community (primarily through social media). 2017-2018 has been a year of personnel changes as Simon has stepped down and Alison Radford has taken over Simon's responsibilities. We have also been very fortunate to add a new member to the team – Jane Passfield. Although Simon may not be chairing our meetings, he is still very involved and he was responsible for designing this year's Easter poster. With regard to the 2017 Easter poster, we were very

grateful to Maz (Simon's daughter) who took on this responsibility with great flair.

Social media continues to be the major growth area for the team's work and we are very grateful to Jon, Terry and Moira for all their hard work here. Our current initiative is streamlining our Facebook presence (there are a couple of Facebook St Matthew's Facebook group pages) and we are also looking



at having a dedicated St Matthew's YouTube channel as well (with the thought of putting up a video tour of the church). During the year we also discussed whether a major revamp of the Church website was appropriate but concluded that incremental improvement of our current web presence was more appropriate. We are particularly pleased that the Weekly Link email

is working well (thanks to Terry) and we would encourage anyone who hasn't opted in to this to contact Terry and opt in. We would also encourage all of those who have opted in to open the email when they receive it.

Steve Tucker remains the editor of the Parish Magazine and (together with Terry Mitchell's able technical assistance) he continues to produce a very engaging publication that offers information and entertainment in equal measure.

The Communications team includes Alison Radford (Chair), Terry Mitchell, Steve Tucker (Parish Magazine editor), Jon Highton, and Jane Passfield. We usually meet on the first Thursday every other month at 8:00 PM at 48 Engadine Close although we have also been meeting on other evenings in recent months. If you interested in the work of the Communications Team, please consider attending one of our regular meetings. Alternatively, if you have skills in the fields of marketing communications or art and design but you are unable or unwilling to join the Communications Team as a full member, please do have a word with Alison about any ideas that you have. We are happy to accommodate anyone wishing to work on a specific project or who is able to offer any other form of time-limited support. Anyone who has web design skills to offer would be welcomed with open arms.

Paul Eden

Magazine

I have edited the bi-monthly magazine for nearly eight years and thoroughly enjoy the challenge. The distribution network in the Parish has been extended such that now nearly 350 copies are printed for each issue, with over half going to homes in the locality. I aim to incorporate an eclectic mix of sacred and secular articles, but if you feel that the magazine is getting stale, or boring, I would appreciate suggestions on how to incorporate improvements. As ever, I wish to thank those who have provided me with excellent material during these last twelve months.



Stephen Tucker

Fabric Report

Despite our plans to do other things, much of the Fabric Team's year has been taken up by the bungalows.

In 2016 our insurers advised that investigations were required to determine what structural repairs were needed to the bungalows. The surveyor's recommendations were that the surrounding vegetation and trees should be cut back and/or felled to prevent their roots from affecting the foundations.

After reviewing all the alternative options we agreed that we had no option but to proceed with this work and as good neighbours we advised the local community that this would take place and why. Unfortunately someone took the advance notice as an opportunity to request that Croydon Council place Tree Preservation Orders on the affected trees. Despite our appeal against this on the grounds that the trees are damaging the bungalows the Council confirmed the Order. Whilst this means that it is likely that further damage will be caused to the bungalows at least our insurers have, in the circumstances, agreed to maintain our buildings cover.



Concurrently to the foundation issue both bungalows became vacant and following inspections by the Team it was found that electrical safety work, thermal upgrades and redecoration were required before they could be re-let. These works were then tendered and carried out by suitable contractors. Following completion in January 2018 the process of letting has commenced.

The budget for 2017 had allowed for further repairs to the stained glass windows, works to improve storage around the church complex and to replace the hall external doors and windows. Whilst some progress has been made it has meant that the fabric budget for 2017 was significantly underspent due to the delays in procuring these planned works. However, the stained glass repairs have now been agreed by the Diocese and these works are being planned to take place after Easter. The Hall doors and windows have been tendered and the proposal has been submitted to Croydon council for planning approval. Planning approval has been given and it is hoped that these will now be installed some time in the summer. Both of these projects have been included in the fabric budget for 2018.



The Team have also been making slow but steady progress in reorganising the use of the various stores in and around the church. There is a 'plan' but its a bit like a three dimensional chess game so please bear with us! Many thanks to all who have been (and will be) assisting in this process. The end goal of this work is to be able to tidy the Gallery so that space looks as good as the rest of the church.

For some time the church public address system has been relying on a small mixer, ageing radio mics and equipment loaned by the Hinders (for which, many thanks). Early in the year, after much discussion, it was agreed by the PCC to replace this equipment within a modest budget and the Fabric Team undertook this activity. A new radio mic receiver (with new mics), a mixer and a power amplifier have been procured and installed whilst retaining much of the existing wiring and the existing speakers.

The Work List of minor repairs and DIY items has been very successful in our avoiding the unnecessary employment of tradespeople. This really helps to keep our budget under control so please have a look at the List on the Rota notice board every month to see if there is anything there that you could assist with.

This year we welcomed Jan Williams on to the FabricTeam but lost Paul Foster-Goss to whom we extend our considerable thanks for all the electrical work he had done.

So we really could do with more team members to represent the congregation. We would therefore welcome, particularly younger, folk who feel that they could contribute to the team meetings and/or help with the gutter cleaning and/or help with the Work List and/or other projects.

Looking forward, other than the regular maintenance items, the next big

issues with the fabric are likely to be replacing the parquet flooring and the roof covering both of which are nearing the end of their working lives. Consideration will need to be given as to how we can fund the replacement of both.

And finally, a big thank you to everyone who has helped with the fabric, including the gutter cleaning team and all the other folk that work in the background getting the small but important maintenance jobs done.

Chris Grayson.

Servers

We are a group of church members who take it in turns to do the administration for the Eucharist services at St Matthew's. We are grateful to all who help out at the services and would like to encourage one or two more to join us – especially for the 8.30 am Communion Services. Training is available.

Each year the diocese holds a servers' festival in the Cathedral in January and St Matthew's has been well represented each year. The date for next year is Saturday 19th January 2019. David Williams has been co-opted onto the organising committee to represent the Croydon Archdeaconry. He will be seeking volunteers to help with next year's festival.



David Williams

Sacristy Report

I would like to thank Jerry Savage who assists me willingly in his role as Assistant Sacristan. We both ensure that the altar frontal cloth is changed to the correct colour as necessary, the wine, wafers and linen are prepared weekly for the eucharist and the sanctuary candles are lit in the Church and Lady Chapel.

I also wish to extend my thanks to Bernadette Relph and Jan and David Williams who launder the linen so efficiently and ensure that the linen and altar cloths look immaculate for every service.

In addition, thanks go to Terry Mitchell who always orders sufficient stock for the team to carry out their duties.

Gillian Bridger

Social & Fellowship Team

We have had another action packed year of activities for the Social & Fellowship Team aimed to reach out to all members of our congregation. This has included:

- A talk by Joy Parker-Fleming on her experiences of the glamour days of flying.
- A bring and share dinner to celebrate Simon's 60th birthday.
- A bring and share lunch for Harvest Festival.
- A lunch for senior parishioners.
- Two bring and share lunches at the vicarage. We aim to invite a mixture of new and established members of the congregation to these lunches. If you have not yet attended one then please let me know and we will make sure that you are included in the invites.
- A bring and share tea party at the Vicarage that was open to the whole congregation
- We assisted the fundraising team with the Christian Aid barbecue and ran the kitchen at the Christmas Fair.
- We provided mulled wine and mince pies at the Christmas Carol Service.
- Jo Ahanou organised Label Sundays on a regular basis.
- Barney has continued to organise bank holiday walks throughout the year.

Lucasta Grayson

Fundraising Team

A new small fundraising team has had a successful year.

Normal events such as Gilbert and Sullivan, Cake Sales, Patronal Festival lunch, Quiz Night, Christmas Lunch, Christmas Fayre were held.

Two new events were held this year.

A fantastic “Celebrity Concert “ was held in July with Caroline Jaya-Ratnam – Former Director of Music St Matthew’s, Stephen Bryant – Leader of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Mark Sheridan – Cellist in the BBC Symphony Orchestra playing works from Mendelssohn, Rubbra, Schumann and Debussy.

There were over 100 attending this wonderful concert on a Summer’s evening which ended with Strawberries and Cream and a glass of Pimms.

The first Christmas Tree Festival was held in December with 13 participants who decorated a Tree around the theme of a Christmas Carol. The festival concluded with a “Festival of Trees Carol Concert” where Michael Strange, Caroline Jaya-Ratnam and St Matthew’s Choir all participating in a joyous concert.

The Fundraising team wish to thank all those who supported and participated throughout the year at these events.

Jane Passfield

Event	Amount Net
Gilbert and Sullivan	720.00
Celebrity Concert	948.00
Matthew by Candlelight (George Dillon)	137.00
Patronal Festival Lunch	686.00
Quiz Night	289.00
Asian Evening	692.00
Christmas Fair	1547.00
Christmas Lunch	521.00
Total (organised by the team)	5,540.00
Organised by Social Fellowship Team (Talks and Lunches)	192.00
Bags2School (Recycle Clothing)	264.00
Easy Fundraising	51.00
Recycle4Charity (printer cartridges)	18.00
Grand Total	6065.00

Coffee Mornings

Thanks to all who make up the Saturday and Sunday coffee rotas. Your help is much appreciated by all."



Lesley Mead

Pastoral Care Team

The Pastoral Team has the responsibility of ensuring that those living in sheltered accommodation or in the many residential and nursing homes in the parish, as well as the housebound who are unable to attend church, are visited regularly and are offered Holy Communion and pastoral support. We also try to make sure that anyone at St Matthew's who needs a pastoral visit receives appropriate care.

The membership of the team is: our Vicar, Simon, our SPA's, Sue Collins and Carolyn Tweed, as well as Barbara Bramidge, Lesley Mead, Steve Tucker and Ann Warr. This year we were also joined by Paul Parmenter during his recovery following heart surgery. The team normally meets every six weeks or so on a Monday morning at the home of Barbara Bramidge - many thanks to Barbara for her warm hospitality.

The team is tasked with following up those who have not been to church for some time, in order to identify any needs they may have. With a congregation the size of ours, we do rely on everyone in church to be aware of those they may not have seen for a while, and to let one of the team know. As part of our ministry of welcome we also try and ensure that newcomers are visited by a lay member of the team soon after they arrive and have filled in a Welcome leaflet.

We continue to offer prayer for healing in the Lady Chapel after the 10.00am service, which has been very well received. This is in addition to our regular 5.00pm healing services on the first Sunday of each month.

Many thanks to all the team for the extremely valuable work they do in the name of St Matthew's and to the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you feel you may have a gifting in the area of pastoral care and/or prayer ministry, and would like to explore offering that gift in service to the church and to our Lord, please speak to Simon. We would be delighted to welcome new members to our team. Support, training and development are always available.

Simon Foster

Gallery Group Report

We meet in the church gallery, a pleasant setting with comfortable chairs where we start with a coffee. The format is to read an Old Testament book, then a New Testament book, then a book by a Christian Writer. Recently we have looked at the Book of Judges, Paul's letter to the Romans, and a modern classic, Jim Packer's Knowing God. We read a passage aloud and then have an informal and free ranging discussion – everyone has their say! We occasionally depart from this pattern to follow a special course in keeping with other house groups. Currently, the Lent Course which looks at Christian issues raised by the Stephen Hawking biopic "The Theory of Everything"

Flower Arranging



Thank you everyone for your help during the year. If any one would like to join the rota please let me know – help with arranging is available if needed. If you wish to commemorate an anniversary with flowers in church I would be pleased to hear from you.

Sue Collins

Deanery Synod

The Croydon Central Deanery Synod met on 7 June 2017, 26 September 2017 and 7 February 2018.

At the June meeting, new members were welcomed to the Synod. James Reid took over from Freddie Eden as Deanery Synod secretary.

Our guest speaker for the September meeting was Martin Corney, CEO of the Whitgift Foundation. He spoke about the work of the Foundation and in particular the work of Whitgift Care and the 1596 Club.

At the February meeting, our guest speaker was Sue Mallinson, Environmental Officer at the Diocese of Southwark. The title of her talk was Earth Matters and she spoke about the work of the Eco Church.

Our next planned meeting will be on 14 June 2018 where we will be holding our election for the Diocesan Synod. We are also planning to have representatives from Street Pastors.

The following meeting will be on 25 September 2018 where we plan to have a talk from the Croydon Refugee Centre.

Choir Report

This year's report hardly varies from last year!

For most of 2017 we had four sopranos, two altos, two tenors and three basses with one or two extra singers for choral evensongs. Naomi Chiwuzie left us in the autumn to go to university so not only did we lose a soprano, we lost the leader of our Junior Choir.

With Michael Strange as our Music Director we continued to practice on Thursday evenings at 7pm for approximately an hour and a half and then on Sundays at 9.30am before the 10am service. We have continued to extend our repertoire with Michael being very mindful of our capabilities.

We continued with one evensong a term. We sang carols at East Croydon Station and were joined by a few of the congregation. On this occasion we raised approximately £275 for Crisis (*we also had a ring donated which was worth £50; This has been sold and £40 has been sent to Crisis*). We also sang carols at Red Court where we had a great welcome and were able to give some of the Christmas spirit - a very rewarding experience.

During the year we had social events at choir member's homes.

The Junior Choir continued for a term without Naomi but only had seven members at best and for various reasons we found we were down to four with only two available on practice nights so at the end of the year the decision was made to suspend Junior practices but to allow those children to sing on Sundays as long as they attended the 9.30am Sunday practice.



We say a big thank you to Michael for his continued work with the choir and the church music.

New choir members are welcome. If you are interested, do speak to Michael. You don't have to read music but have enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

Circle Dancing

We now dance on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, from 10.30am – 12.30pm and have approx 27 names on the register and an average attendance of 14 at each session which as you can see from the photograph below makes a lovely circle and generates a wonderful energy.

We are also pleased to announce a first Wednesday session of each month in the church 2.00pm – 4.00pm. You may have seen us sharing a dance or two in some of our services. Many of the dancers have even ventured further afield and joined us for one of our dance days we regularly hold in Godstone. New members are always welcome, you don't need any previous dance experience just comfy shoes or bare feet if you prefer and the only other vital pieces of equipment to bring with you is an open mind and a sense of humour !!

Dancing in a circle is an ancient tradition common to many cultures for marking special occasions, strengthening community and encouraging togetherness. Modern circle dance draws on the rich and diverse traditional dances of many countries, including the Balkans, Greece, Israel, Russia, and France. There is also a growing repertoire of new dances to classical music and contemporary songs. Circle dances can be energetic and lively or gentle and reflective. The style and mood reflects the group and the interests of the teacher. The aim always is to experience the joy of dancing with others and to create a sense of well-being and community.



For the more observant of you, yes it's an older photo but I feel rather significant as the spritely white haired lady is Sonja who played a big part of promoting Circle dance. Sadly she no longer dances with us but we often think of her and hold her in the circle.

Look forward to welcoming you one Saturday or Wednesday very soon.

Sally Ditzel

Teacher & choreographer Croydon Circle Dance

Young Church

Our young people meet every week during the 10 am service to learn more about what it means to be a Christian. We have four groups, a crèche for the very young, groups for young people in the following age ranges: infants, juniors and a senior group. The meetings include games, bible study and craft and other activities. The young people are also encouraged to participate in our all age worship services in Church through reading bible passages, prayers and acting.



During the year the young people continued to support Maria, the young girl in Indonesia through their weekly giving and a cake sale. The young people pray for her each week and exchange letters with her. We have now been supporting Maria for more than six years

Last spring we had an outing to play bowls and this was enjoyed by the young people.

We have a dozen leaders who share the teaching and running the crèche on Sundays and we are very grateful to the time they put into to this valuable work. If you feel you would like to help please have a word with Judith as new leaders are always welcome. No professional teaching skills are required and the commitment over the year is not large as the weekly sessions are planned on a rota basis and this means that on most Sundays the leaders are in Church.

Judith Spencer-Gregson Young Church Coordinator

Messy Church

We have now been holding a regular monthly Messy Church for more than two years. Each month we welcome some of our regular young people and parents and carers and we also see and welcome newcomers as the word gets round about our activities.



Some may be wondering, "What is Messy Church?"

At St Matthew's, we arrange a once monthly event for children and their parents/carers to come and to enjoy participating together in craft, games, sharing a meal and a time to Celebrate God's love for us all. As Messy Church, we are trying to be a Worshipping Community of all ages in a very informal way, centred on having fun. In summer 2017 our regular Sunday morning congregation had the chance to experience Messy Church as our All Age Service was a Messy Church with crafts geared for all ages to enjoy.

We meet on the **SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH** (except August) from 3.30 to 5.30. On arriving it is a time to unwind from school with quiet activities and a snack. Then at 4pm the fun begins being a time for the young people, parents and carers to be creative, with lots of different craft activities and games. The church hall is buzzing with talk and enthusiasm as young people try out new activities and make things and often a great deal of mess. This is followed by a very informal short worship time and then everyone sits down together and the young people enjoy a cooked tea. The activities and

the Celebration are all focussed on a theme, which might be seasonal, or a Bible story.

We could not have such a lively Messy Church without our committed team of volunteers of all ages including some senior school young people and we are immensely grateful to all our volunteers for all their hard work in welcoming and helping the children and making the events such fun. We are always in need of extra help so if you could spare a couple of hours once a month do have a word with Alison or Judith. We also welcome visitors to just come along and observe the fun and activities and join in if you wish.

PLEASE DO COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN AND PASS THE WORD ON TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS. – 2nd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH FROM 3.30 TO 5.30 PM.

Rev Simon Foster, Alison Radford and Judith Spencer-Gregson

10 O’Clock Club

The club meets on Tuesday mornings 10.00am to 12noon during term time and we charge £1 per family. We have a very friendly atmosphere within the group, where all cultures attend and as a group we socialise well with each other.

Our activities each week reflect what is happening in the calendar, Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday (pancakes), Mother’s Day, Easter, Diwali and Christmas. We often ask the adults to join the activities. The full age range of youngsters attending have the use of all the toys available from cars, trampoline, playdough and toys for babies.



The group also look forward to the regular visits from the Vicar.

The group are grateful to the volunteers from the church who come each Tuesday to make the tea and coffee and drinks for the children.

Cheryl and Joan

Leaders.

15th Central Croydon Brownies

The last year has been busy for the 15th central Croydon brownies.

July saw the girls spending two nights away with the brownies. They were dropped off on the Friday after school, slept two nights and went home the

Sunday afternoon. We stayed in the local girl guiding centre called Radcliffe. The theme for the holiday was Harry Potter. The girls made cakes, learnt to cook indoors and on the fire and ran around the grounds of the accommodation.

After the summer holidays we had a variety of pets visit us from Anne Nelson Vets. They included a dog, tortoise, ferret and two guinea pigs along with a vet and nurse. They informed the girls of how to approach a dog, listen to the dogs heart and learnt how to bandage a poorly leg. The girls and the leaders enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot



For Christmas, we entered the church's Christmas tree fayre. To enter, the tree decorations had to follow a theme. Our tree was based on the Christmas song White Christmas. The girls made snow people using cotton wool and card as well as snowflakes which they decorate and hung up..

Before the girls broke up for the Christmas holiday, we visited one of the local care homes – Wilhelmina house and sang Christmas carols with some of the residents

This coming year will including local trips out with other local brownies units, more badges and fun.

Please contact Laura Easton (Brown Owl) [07833458041](tel:07833458041), for more infomation

