

The Walk

Lent 2017



HTC

HOLY TRINITY COVENTRY

..... a house of prayer for all.....



Dear Friends,

Before and after I arrived at Holy Trinity Coventry, I was told over and over again that the role is a big job, a complex job, a difficult job, and even an impossible job!! We can all take our views on those statements I am sure, and my feelings ebb and flow like the rest of us.

I would like to remind us that some things remain constant, no matter what job, or church we are in; or how old we are, or how long we have been a Christian. So here goes ...

Every Christian, by simply choosing to become a follower of Christ, signs up to take part in a spiritual conflict of life and death proportions. It is a conflict in which we need discipline, and a deep sense of value of our service.

But that's not the end of it of course. It is a life to live where our eternal future is secure. It is a guaranteed life where Jesus will never abandon us. It is a life in which we are increasingly transformed by the power of God far beyond whatever we deserve. A life whereby, as we submit to God, we find our lives being used to benefit others, and even affect their eternal future! That is awesome and amazing, just think about it!

So, here we are as part of Holy Trinity, with God wanting to transform us, use us, bless us and lots more. It is a privilege that I want to give my life to. Let us cling tightly to our Lord Jesus and see Him do wonderful things through us as we journey together.

With much love and respect,

Rev. Graeme.

Updates from the Ministry Leadership Team

Outreach

"Then Agrippa said to Paul, 'Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?'

Paul replied, 'Short time or long – I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains.' "

Acts 26 v28-29: The Apostle Paul speaking to King Agrippa while under arrest.

At the end of last year the Outreach group made the following recommendations to the PCC and the Church concerning outreach:

1. HTC to build further relationships with churches across Coventry, collaborating with them on shared projects, and learning from their successes.
2. The Outreach group to work with the Pastoral group to consider how to develop, frame and resource small group work as part of an outreach strategy that nurtures people as people.
3. The Battle of the Bands event should be developed and repeated.
4. HTC urgently to invest in student and young person engagement.

Of course, recommending these actions is one thing and bringing them into fruition is another and so as a group we are now beginning to think through what steps we as a Church should take next. Meanwhile, if anyone would like to reach out to students and young people then please come and talk to someone from the Outreach group.

Also please pray for us as we think through the next steps and for all the Church that we might be open to those around us who are searching for God.

Outreach Group: Paul Doggett, James Foster, Kay Withers, Eun-Hwan Lee and Wilfrid Kendall.

Paul Doggett

March 2017

Pastoral Ministry

'I am the Good Shepherd: I know my sheep'

What a start to 2017! On 2nd January, around 45 of us of all ages met at the Memorial Park for a walk. Thanks to James Foster for leading; negotiating fun runners and frosty paths on a glorious sunny morning. Watch the bulletins for the next one.

Being together is great. At 9.30 Breakfast, after-service refreshments and Nibbles we can live out hospitality in knowing and encouraging each other. Thank you to everyone who makes people feel loved and welcomed, in whatever way, large or small.

Food is a great ice-breaker, but recalling tasty morsels brought and shared, we know that others go hungry. The Food Bank box in church is the place to donate in-date non-perishable foods for such families. We will have launched a Lenten effort to give more to the Food Bank by the time this is published.

Being together: looking forward, we will be considering how small groups strengthen us, and how we might grow further in this way. Your prayers for all aspects of the Pastoral Ministry will be appreciated.

Jean Howard
February 2017

Worship

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12 vv 1-2

Practically outworking this in our worship at Holy Trinity is my number one priority and will continue to be the focus of the ministry team.

We will be meeting later this month to prayerfully consider our priorities as a Worship ministry team. Please pray for us as we seek God and his will.

As always, we are interested in any thoughts, suggestions or wisdom, so please speak to any of us on the team - Pete Griffiths, John Roy, Jeremy Bevan, Alex Norman, Geoff Wilcox, Graeme Anderson.

If anyone is interested in joining the team, please talk to me.

Pete Griffiths
March 2017

Youth and Children's Ministry

12 months have passed since I first wrote to you about our work with youth and children at HTC and what a wonderful year we have had!

Messy Church continues to flourish; our Sunday work excites our children; we have successfully met the requirements for safer recruiting of our volunteers; we have run a safeguarding session open to our whole church to highlight what a priority this is for us; we are partnering with Thrive Youth Ministries to grow our youth and children's ministry and ministry leadership team; Tots Time, our mid-week preschool group in conjunction with Coffee Tots, has the reputation of being a safe place to build relationships and seek refreshment; and YWAM's 5-day Narnia event in half term, held in the Old Blue Coat School, saw 700 visitors (although some of those were repeat visits, as it was so good!), with whom they shared the message of salvation and gave out information about HTC family activities.

We are so grateful for the amazing opportunities God has blessed us with and I hope you will join me in the prayer that we can walk with people as God's love transforms the lives of families and young people across Coventry.

Looking forward, we are launching a Good Friday family Journey to the Cross at Old Blue Coat School. This will run during the Good Friday meditation service and will be designed for families looking to mark this day together in a way that is accessible to all age groups.

A particular point for prayer right now is how we minister to babies and their parents during services. The facilities we have available in the North Porch are not providing the loving welcome we at HTC desire to offer. I have sought the prayerful wisdom of the PCC and together we are looking to address this.

I would like to publicly thank our young people for all the ways you are already serving in our church; you bless us! Also, all those adults who have given time to volunteer with, pray for, speak with and encourage our young people (or the parents of), and particularly Vicki Johnson for the hours she puts in as our Safeguarding Officer.

Please keep on welcoming our young people: our vision as the Youth and Children's ministry leadership team is that our children not only feel assured of their place in God's Kingdom as beloved sons and daughters, but they also recognise their place as valued and respected members of our church family.

Please use this verse to guide you when praying for the Youth and Children's work at HTC:

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2 v 6-7

Ann McCabe
March 2017

Finance Update

Recently I was driving into the hospital car park for the second Monday in a row for blood tests and clinic appointments and thinking “not again”. This was despite the fact that I know it is good for me to go and also, despite its shortcomings, knowing that we have a lot to be grateful for with the NHS.

Financial updates can create the same sort of feelings, particularly when we have had to work through a 5 year deficit reduction programme and the financial messages have had to be challenging.

A quick overview of the 2016 results below shows us that we have, for the second year in a row, been able to make a small surplus. This is quite an achievement and it makes sense to pause and thank God for a new era and to thank everyone who has given faithfully of their resources (and not just the financial).

We can't afford to be complacent and we need to make sure that we continue to be exercised about our giving so we can begin to look to the future and ask what God wants us to do with our resources (again not just our money). It is a new phase in our Church life and a new phase in our finances; wouldn't it be good if we saw our finances multiply to allow us to respond to the new things the we want to see for our Church in the days ahead, even before we actually need it? A treasurer can dream can't they?!

We will be trying to give you more regular news about our finances so we can all be excited about this new phase.

“See, I am doing a **new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:19

RoseAnne Doggett
Treasurer

HTC Financial Results for the Year Ended 31/12/16 Review of Results

	2016 Actual £	2016 Budget £	2015 Actual £
Unrestricted Income	207,706	184,318	215,474
Unrestricted Expenditure	202,729	190,340	207,768
Surplus/ (Deficit) in Year	<u>4,977</u>	<u>-6,022</u>	<u>7,706</u>

Buildings and Fabric

2016 Report from B&F Committee

1. Quinquennial Roof Repairs (West End).

The contract is now complete, including the 'Google' virtual tour (which replaced the idea of information packs for visiting schools). Further work is now needed to provide text for points of interest around the building. The tour has been uploaded to Google and can be viewed at; <https://goo.gl/maps/ijeHQdh3GQJ2> Two items of work (North transept roof replacement and stonework repairs above the old organ chamber) had to be removed from the HLF bid because tenders came in above the total costs allowed by HLF for this particular funding stream. Soon after commencement of work it became apparent that repairs to the Nave roof were far more extensive than originally envisaged.

Extra funding was not given by HLF and so we were forced to omit repairs to the Archdeacon's Court roof in order to keep the project within budget. Bids were made to the National Churches Trust and the Listed Places Roof Repair Scheme for the omitted items, though unfortunately both bids were unsuccessful. A new bid will be made to HLF to include these three items (Total approx. £100,000) together with a proposal for a catering facility to be located in the Archdeacon's Court.

2. Toilets

George Demidowicz has produced a draft archaeological survey report detailing the proposed toilet location and its effect on the charnel house and the North Chancel aisle wall (where the toilet entrance will be). The survey was requested by the DAC on behalf of Historic England, following a consultation meeting on site. Comments from our architect and ourselves have been incorporated into the report and it has been sent to the DAC.

3. Church Lighting Scheme

One prospective contractor has met with Sam, Sue and Bill to discuss lighting proposals. It is intended that our 'in-house' team will install the lamps and wiring and the contractor will provide the design, lamps and commissioning. Our electrical contractor will make all final connections. Another contractor will visit in the next few weeks to provide a further quotation.

4. Organ

The organ has been purchased and tenders for installation have been invited. Anticipated costs for the scheme were reported to the Development Trust on the 27th. Feb. and a decision was taken to request David Wells to proceed with dismantling and storage of the organ. Costs for this work will be met from Development Trust funds and they will lead on fundraising. A small working group has been asked to consider the storage implications of using the current servers' vestry for the location of the organ.

5. Insurance

A 5 year price agreement (25% discount) with Ecclesiastical came to an end in September 2016 and we were again free to seek insurance quotations from elsewhere. The DAC recommended two companies, Ecclesiastical and Trinitas, and quotations were requested from each. Trinitas was accepted and our annual premium is now £12,998. (Saving against Ecclesiastical of £2,000 and saving against last year's Ecclesiastical premium of £4,000). Our insurance is on the same basis as the Ecclesiastical policy though it now also includes the curate's house in Stoney Road (a further saving of £250). Based on information supplied by the Trinitas surveyor, we have cancelled our unnecessary boiler engineering insurance policy that covered the church and church centre boilers, saving a further £700 per annum.

6. West End Entrance Steps

The method of marking the edges of the steps was discussed at the November PCC meeting and subsequently by e.mail with Jeremy Bevan. There is a conflict between safety and aesthetics. Under lighting of the steps will again be investigated as a third option to studs and strip marking.

7. 'Last Judgment' Painting Monitoring

One of Julian's team of engineers has agreed to carry out work to update our environmental monitoring system. A quote from the original suppliers of £4,000 will be considerably reduced, though final costs are yet to be agreed. We will purchase our own sensors, including spares for approximately £500. The dedicated phone line will be cancelled from April 2017 and the work should take between 6 and 8 weeks to complete.

8. Improvements to the North Porch

B & F committee has been asked to consider methods of improving the North porch. A scheme will be produced to include; flattening out the floor, carpeting, purpose built storage, lighting improvement and door glazing. The scheme then to go to PCC for approval.

9. Purchase of tables and chairs for church

Investigations are being carried out into tables and stackable chairs for church. B&F committee suggest that 70 chairs and 9 tables, each 4ft 6in diameter, are required. This will avoid the time consuming and physically demanding task of moving chairs and tables between church and church centre. Examples of chairs and the suggested design of tables (tables to be constructed in-house) will be brought to Standing Committee.

*Prepared by Bill Johnson, on behalf of the Building & Fabrics Committee
February 2017*

Coventry North Deanery Synod report 2017

Coventry North Deanery covers the Cathedral, Holy Trinity, St John's, and all Anglican churches in the north of the city from Radford to Exhall and Allesley to Longford. Representatives from all these churches have met quarterly in the last year, and your representatives have attended every one.

In the summer we were visited by Bishop John, and a very good presentation was created by several members, including John Roy. We also shared bread and wine together, which, since the Deanery contains a number of 'Forward in Faith' parishes, was handled sensitively and creatively.

An autumn meeting focussed on youth work in the Deanery, and churches were encouraged to share experience and best practice, which was extremely interesting.

Our last meeting was in February, and featured as guest speaker the Chancellor of the Diocese, Judge Stephen Eyre. He spoke on the subject of faculty applications, which are required when any permanent works or changes are carried out in or around church buildings. He shared some recommendations and gave advice on several issues raised by those attending.

Deanery Synod gives a valuable insight into the workings of churches close to us, but quite different in character, and into the huge and impressive range of activities they run for the people in their parishes.

*Prepared by Catherine Kendall
February 2017*

Diocesan Synod Report 2016

Diocesan Synod met three times during the year. In addition to regular business, we considered numerous other matters. We received a presentation on rural ministry in the diocese and broke into groups to consider the way forward. Our suggestions, such as one about new forms of services and of outreach, will be taken further. We considered what activities in the diocese need to be better integrated. From such sessions there emerged other ideas to be taken further, and some have begun.

Most of these initiatives are being financed by money released by the Church Commissioners to support mission. Lay workers for mission among young adults ("Twenties and Thirties") have been appointed to several parishes. St Mark's Church, by the Swanswell, is to be re-opened as a Resource Church, independent of the parishes, also for mission among young adults. Training courses in practical matters (such as Churchwarden, Treasurer) are being established to complement the existing Bishop's Certificate in theological and spiritual matters. Other points for further work include church schools and academies, ministry among the elderly and Messy Church.

We heard the promulgation of Amending Canon 34, on safeguarding. Essentially, this makes safeguarding everyone's business. It provides for risk assessments, and it enables bishops to suspend persons accused or suspected of relevant offences, without having to wait for conviction after trial.

We heard of the efforts to use Offa House under the schemes to settle Syrian refugees and other vulnerable people. These were unsuccessful, and the trustees have decided to sell the property.

In his presidential address, given shortly before the referendum, the Bishop commented on the tone of the debate, and said that there would be work of reconciling to be done, whatever the result. He reminded us that churches are ministering in these divided communities, but that we must be reconciled among ourselves if we are to have any worthwhile effect.

There had been calls for political debate to be moderated, even detoxified, after the murder of Jo Cox MP. Referring to Romans and to our ruined Cathedral as evidence of the cost of disagreement, he urged us to love our enemies so much that they become our neighbours.

Prepared by John Roy

February 2017

Services and activities at Holy Trinity for Lent and Easter

Sunday 2nd April – APCM

*Service of Thanksgiving and Annual APCM at 10.30am
(all are welcome to bring cake for sharing)*

Sunday 9th April – Palm Sunday

Services at 9.30am and 11.00am

Friday 14th April – Good Friday

*Service of Meditation: Three Hours at the Cross – 12 – 3pm
(come for half hour or the whole service)*

&

*Family Journey to the Cross
Old Blue Coat School, 12 – 3pm*

Sunday 16th April – Easter Day

Service at 10.30am

Monday 17th April

*We hope to have a Bank Holiday walk –
further details available soon*

Sunday 23rd April – Low Sunday

Service at 10.30am

*Our midweek services will continue to
take place throughout Lent and Easter*

Natural Church Development

The annual NCD Survey will be taking place this Lent. The survey is an important tool which helps the Ministry Leadership Team and Wardens measure how Holy Trinity is performing with regard to these 8 essential qualities. The results will be used by the MLT, Standing Committee and PCC to prayerfully consider what areas to focus on in the coming year.

These qualities are a way of life, not a programme or model. Individuals, groups and whole churches are encouraged to work towards ensuring that all of these 8 qualities permeate through their whole life and ministry.

Each quality encompasses a range of characteristics which are briefly outlined below.

Empowering Leadership

In Empowering Leadership all leaders in the church intentionally seek to identify, train and empower other leaders, giving them responsibility for people and projects, and rejoicing when they do better than they do! Empowering leaders lead and empower others to lead. They explain, motivate and liberate through mentoring and on-the-job training.

Gift-based Ministry

Every individual is unique and serving the Kingdom of God both within and outside the church is based on a person's gifts and skill. Gift-based Ministry helps people identify their particular and unique God-given passions, gifts, skills and personality which enables them to serve in a way that changes the world for the better. As they serve in this way people are fulfilled and flourish in their mission and ministry both within and outside the church community.

Passionate Spirituality

The word 'Passionate' has its root in 'suffering' and self-sacrifice. So a Passionate Spirituality is prepared to suffer for the sake of others. It is a spirituality that is authentic and real, which hungers for God and has a vibrancy of faith.

People have a living and infectious personal relationship with Jesus Christ, nurtured through prayer, worship and spiritual disciplines including sacrificial giving. They manifest the fruit of the Spirit in every aspect of their lives as they pursue holiness and obedience.

Effective Structures

The structures exist to enable the church to function effectively and for the 8 Essential Qualities to flourish. The ministries of the church have clear purposes and members understand the church's mission. Effective Structures are flexible, able to adapt and change as necessary to facilitate further growth. All the structures of the church serve the mission and purpose of the church.

Inspiring Worship

Inspiring Worship is about quality rather than style. It will be a high point of the week, and is so inspiring people will want to bring along people who do not have a Christian faith to experience it. Visitors who come are able to enjoy the experience. Inspiring worship helps us to meet with Jesus. It provides space and opportunity for a mutual encounter with God Himself. Inspiring worship is transformative ... people's lives change for the better as a result!

Holistic Small Groups

A Small Group is any church group which is small, defined by its size rather than its function. So it can include bible study groups but also groups like the PCC, the MU, the fabric committee etc, any group that is small! In Holistic Small Groups the 8 qualities are in evidence: loving relationships; passionate spirituality; effective structures; empowering leadership etc; members are enabled to use their spiritual gifts and the prayer is a reality, whatever the function of the group.

Need-oriented Evangelism

Need-oriented Evangelism or Outreach is seen in people and Christian communities filled with the Holy Spirit involved in the messiest parts of the parish.... the people who are hurting the most, the poorest, the most isolated, the ones who need loving the most... etc. The only reason for doing this is to love people with Christ's love.

Members can talk naturally about their faith, sharing it with others. For people wishing to explore a journey to and in the Christian faith, the church has clear processes to help them along the stepping stones to and in discipleship.

Loving Relationships

Loving Relationships are characterised by a fun, welcoming and forgiving atmosphere. Healthy churches were shown to have a lot of laughter in them. The church is welcoming, accessible and inclusive and reflects the wider community. Forgiveness is the starting point of Christian faith for us all and is reflected in relationships that are loving, affirming and encouraging.

*We'd love to hear your stories about your own
walking and working with Jesus,
or thoughts and comments about anything you have read here.
Do get in touch on our website – www.holytrinitycoventry.org.uk –
or email us at hoffice@holytrinitycoventry.org.uk.*

Or why not talk to a member of the MLT or PCC? (If you're not sure who they are, have a look at the noticeboards at the back of church!)