

Annual Church Meeting 2018

TEAM VICAR'S REPORT

A new Parish: This is a very significant time in the life of our church. At the APCM (the Team Ministry's annual general meeting) the decision was taken to dissolve the Team Ministry as it stands at the moment. This means we can look forward to St. Matthew's becoming an independent parish in the near future. This is an exciting development and one the Leadership Team and DCC fully support.

Becoming a parish will relieve us of a lot of administrative duplication and give greater freedom to decide our own future – but it's much more than just a legal or administrative change.

A new opportunity: It provides us with a wonderful opportunity to rethink key aspects of how we do church.... The big questions like, what are we here for? As well as the practical stuff - how we structure and organise church – and finally, what partnerships we forge with our community and with other churches locally.

We have already begun this process at our Church weekend, with its theme 'Re-imagining church', which gave us the opportunity to start looking at key areas – what sort of community of people we want to be, how we relate to the wider community around us, how we make disciples in our generation, and finally, how we balance the call to continue Jesus' ministry with our seeming powerlessness at times and the pain and suffering we see around us. This is a conversation that needs to continue and involve those that were not with us at Rosehill. During our church meeting we will be displaying the feedback from some of those sessions and along with the talks we hope to have it up on the web site soon too.

A new Staff Team: Last summer we said goodbye to Jon and Claire as they began their new adventure. In the autumn we welcomed Tom and Lois onto the staff Team as Youth and Children's Ministers respectively. They bring very different gifts and personalities and I am excited about the potential this brings to develop new areas of ministry. Also during the year, Hannah's role changed from Administrator to Operations Manager, signifying a greater share in the responsibility for the day to day running of St. Matt's.

A very big thank you: I want to finish this report by expressing my gratitude to everyone who shares in ministry at St. Matt's, and that is all of you. My special thanks goes to the Staff, Wardens, DCC and Leadership Team.

Chris Wicks – Team Vicar

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Ignite

Ignite is our open youth group for those in years 6-13. It runs in the church on Wednesday nights during term-time. We provide activities for the young people including, pool, table tennis and football, as well as having board games, a Wii console and craft activities. Once a month we have a tuck shop night and a milkshake night, and we occasionally have movie or themed nights, such as our Fireworks and Christmas parties.

Since September we've welcomed 64 young people through the doors, and have an average attendance of 33 each week.

Youth House Group / Equip

In October we launched the youth house group on a Sunday evening but this didn't take off so we went back to the drawing board and in March re-launched as Equip. This takes the form of two mid-week groups, one on a Tuesday for those in years 6-9 and the other on a Wednesday for those in years 10+. Equip provides an opportunity for the young people to build relationships and explore their faith in a safe and supportive environment.

We've run five sessions for the younger group and had 4 young people attend with an average of 3 each week. The older group has had seven sessions so far and we've seen 7 young people attend with an average of 4 each week.

Encounter

Encounter is our Sunday morning group for those in years 6-13. We spend a period of time each session getting to know each other through an icebreaker or game and then we focus on the topic for the week. Between September and February we followed the same teaching as the main church. Since then we have looked at Lent, Easter and we are currently working through a series on Christian basics. This covers prayer, the Bible, worship, service, stewardship and evangelism amongst other things.

Since September we've welcomed 45 young people through the doors, and have an average attendance of 14 each week.

The Noise

The Noise is a social action project that sees young people from churches across Tunbridge Wells come together for three days of sharing God's love with a community through litter picking, kids clubs, football, odd jobs and a community event. This year, The Noise was held in Sherwood based at St Philip's Church and across the three days we took ten young people from St Matt's. Next year it will be held in the town centre, 10th -12th April, and I hope to be able to take a similar sized group next year.

Unite & Soul Survivor

Unite is a monthly youth service run by the youth leaders across the town and co-ordinated by Tunbridge Wells Youth for Christ. It's held at Tunbridge Wells Christian Fellowship and runs on the third Sunday of each month. I had the privilege of speaking to them back in October on the topic of prayer.

We regularly have a small contingent from St Matt's at Unite but it would be amazing to see this number grow.

In the summer, we will be joining with the rest of Unite in attending Soul Survivor. We currently have three young people signed up but I would love to take more, so please speak to me if you're interested!

Moving Forward

Over the coming year I would like to see the youth become more involved in the life of the church both here at St Matt's and across the town. We have a fantastically gifted group of young people, and it would be great to see them using their gifts.

With the success that we're seeing with the new Equip groups, there are more opportunities for discipling young people, and I look forward to increase this aspect of work over the coming year. I am passionate about young people in the local area that are not involved with any of our groups at the moment, so will be looking into starting some form of detached work. Hopefully this will be in line with work the church will be doing after our conversations at the weekend away.

With the growth in the groups that we've see over the year, this has meant we have, at times, struggled with volunteer numbers. I will be looking to add more people to our volunteer base over the coming year, both to enable us to continue to reach more young people but also to protect those volunteers who already give so much. If you would be interested in joining the youth team and working with an awesome bunch of young people, please get in touch!

Thanks

Finally, I would like to thank all those that give their time each week to come alongside the young people in our community and encourage them in life and faith. Without your commitment to our young people, none of the work we do would be possible.

Tom Tyler – Youth Minister

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

I started as Children and Families Minister at St. Matthew's Church at the end of August 2017. My aim is to help the children to continue to grow in their knowledge of the Bible and how it applies to their lives today. I also want parents and people within the church to understand what the children are learning about so that they can cover them in prayer support as well as leading to more discussions (especially for the older children in Glow and Bright) when the children go home on Sundays. To help with this, I have put an overview on the blue board near the coffees giving the titles of each week's session plans (the current sessions are listed till end of July 2018). I also regularly post on the Facebook Discipleship group so that the church know what the children have been learning. My heart is for our children to learn to walk each day in faith, recognising that the Holy Spirit can live within them and help direct their paths if they choose to ask Him. I also want them to realise that God will guard their hearts and minds from fear (Philippians 4:7). They are never alone as God walks with them.

Shine (Sunday, aged 0-2)

We are currently following the stories featured in the Baby Bible in Shine. Children who attend have time to play and interact with each other before they sit down to have a biscuit and listen to one of the Bible Stories. As part of play time there is a craft / activity linked to the Bible story, e.g. putting tissue paper on the face of the lion as they learn about Daniel in the lion's den or practising their colouring skills on a picture linked to the Bible story.

Glow (Sunday, aged 3 - school year 1)

The children in Glow are still developing their questioning abilities so are really engaged when it comes to the Bible Story. They enjoy the craft element to help them think about the story they have heard. Recently they are enjoying being told a story and having to run to different coloured mats related to the story.

Bright (Sunday, school years 2-5)

Jon has given the children some incredible teaching from the Bible in Bright. I wanted to continue to give them strong teaching tackling different subjects within the Bible, including why different acts from Jesus were important and what it could show the children in how they live today. It has been great to watch the children develop over these past months. It has evolved from games followed by teaching to the whole group, to breaking them down into smaller groups to discuss different aspects of the story. One group will do a craft linked to the story whilst another group will think about and discuss what they have heard. I have enjoyed especially seeing those children that were shy at the start of the term become more engaged in what we are doing and participating more. Having some children with additional needs has also been a good challenge for the group as they learn how to deal with each other as well as those children feeling safe enough to join in.

Deeper (mid-week, school years 3-5)

Our children's group for those in years 3-5 started in September with 6 regular children. It has slowly grown to 9. The children spend the first hour playing on the Wii, playing football, chatting with each other, crafting and playing games such as Twister, Connect Four and Snakes and

Ladders. We then get together for a small talk. In the first term the children learnt each week about a section of a fictional story and how it related to the story of Joseph in the Bible. This last term we have been looking at topics such as God and possessions, God and sharing, God and jealousy, and God and forgiveness. As this is a mixture of church and non-church children, I want it to be a place where they feel chilled to come and relax with friends.

I am praying for this group to grow and Tom and I are thankful for all the help that Alex Foot has been giving in coming alongside these lovely children as they come to relax after school. We are excited that Elaine Latchford has just agreed to come on board to help and are looking for another 18+ person who might be happy to commit to every week / every other week to join us at church on a Monday from 3:15-5pm.

My heart for Deeper is that it is a place where children can experience friendship, discuss interesting topics that come up in the Bible alongside having fun together.

School Assemblies

Tom and I have had fun leading 10-15 minute assemblies at St Matts Primary School each Tuesday. The children are very receptive and listen well. We incorporate a game related to the theme we are discussing, always including a Bible verse and prayer for the children to think about.

Matt's Monkeys toddler group

Toddler group runs on a Thursday morning at St. Matt's Church. I have been really encouraged to see the children and parents / carers numbers creep up as the weeks go by. The parents were happy with the new layout of a designated ride on area permanently set up for the whole duration of the session. Due to demand and discussion with parents we have adjusted our opening times to allow them more time in the toddler group. We are now open 09.30-11.15. Children play from 09.30-10.55 with the option of a short craft. We then have tidy up time of toys before the children and carers go into the church centre, where the children have a biscuit and listen to a story and then sing songs together. From January 2018 I have alternated having a story from the Baby Bible and a fictional book. We have also added in some short songs that talk about God. Parents are really receptive and we have started a prayer book for parents to ask for prayer. We have an amazing team of volunteers that come to help make the toddler group run smoothly and I am very grateful to them. It is a fab place where we can chat to the parents and carers that turn up and are building relationships with them as they open up more about their own personal lives.

Future plans

Having sessions on living boldly, Lent, the first disciples, the Transfiguration and Pentecost over the last few months, I wanted a different challenge for the children. In the autumn term we will be doing a "Nature of God" series for Glow and Bright, where the children will find out about the different characteristics of God. Each week we will be focusing on a different characteristic and how we can reflect those same characteristics, thinking about what it means to be made in the image of God. In both groups I want prayer to become more of a focus and for them to realise that we can pray to God at any time of day.

In Shine we will be focussing on being thankful to God for different things each week and realising that God knows our name. The children will also be learning about how God looks after them when they sleep, that he sent Jesus down for them and thanking him for the seasons.

The children in our church are starting on their individual journeys with God and it is so important to encourage each of them that I would love more adults in the church to invest in helping them on their journeys. The sessions are fun with a mixture of games, talk and discussion as well as craft. Being on the rota once a month enables the groups to run and allows us to divide the children up so that smaller discussions can be had. Please speak to me if you would like to join a group and want some more information. Thank you.

Lois Fryett - Children's & Families Minister

7 O'CLOCK SERVICE / SEVEN REPORT

In February 2017, Seven was relaunched as a gathering of believers creating space to encounter and worship Jesus. The aim was to share together our experiences of God at work and respond as He reveals Himself and our own identities. As the year progressed, it saw the leadership team of this gathering changing. Catherine Root and Rob Wilson moved onto pastures new; Seven reclaimed its status as a service with Chris Wicks and Katy Johnson co-leading. The service currently averages at 15 members each week and continues to be a quiet, thoughtful, spirit-filled atmosphere focusing mainly on worship and teaching. The teaching is provided by a range of people from all services at St Matt's as well as some speakers from further afield. The worship is often led by an individual musician providing a contemplative tone within which we seek to engage with Jesus. The community of Seven continues to develop and strengthen; we look forward to seeing how God grows and uses us over the next year.

Katy Johnson - Seven Leadership Team

WORSHIP REPORT

The past year has seen relatively little change for the worship team at St. Matt's. We have had interest from younger members of the church and it has been exciting to see them join us both in services and at the monthly evening sessions, in the band and operating the PA.

As a team we continue to support the Sunday morning and 7pm services, as well as the monthly Hungry gatherings and Revive meetings. We are particularly dependent on a handful of individuals for the 7pm, Hungry and Revive gatherings - it would be really good to get a few more people helping in the worship for these.

Some of the worship team have been getting involved with a town wide worship event, The Burn, and I am looking at ways in which the team can grow by looking at what is happening in our town.

I am always so deeply grateful for the enthusiasm and time given by the worship team in serving our church in worship. We are really blessed to have such a range of gifts in the team and I really value how folks within the team encourage each other. Thank you to all the musicians and PA team for all you give.

We have a fun and friendly worship team at St. Matt's and are always excited to welcome folks of all skills to the teams. I am particularly looking for people to help with PA (training will be provided) and bassists. If you would be interested in joining the worship team, please get in touch with me (ali@heppy.co.uk).

Ali Granger - Worship Co-ordinator

WELCOME TEAM REPORT

The Welcome Team's role at St. Matt's is to greet members of the congregation and make any visitor feel like "one of the family". The serving of refreshments is key to this – just as you would do to a visitor in your own home.

A few new faces on the Sunday Team include Hannah, Jos and Maisie Granger, Ella and Anna Smith, and Jan and Mark Gabriel. We try to have a minimum of 3 each Sunday, bolstered by me most Sundays. We are gradually introducing a 'serve yourself' culture at the coffee table, so that we don't have to rely on 2 people each Sunday to man it. We have discovered that our team loves to serve people so the self-serve only comes into play if we are really short staffed.

The writing names on cups seems to have done the job of familiarising the welcome team with everyone's names, and also reminding people to use their cups again if they want a refill. The cups and lids have been cleverly resourced by Hannah, so that we can recycle them more easily. The cups are biodegradable and the lids are now fully compostable, unlike most paper cups which have a non-recyclable lining.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone in our Welcome Team and special event hospitality teams (especially those who stepped up at the recent Church Weekend) for their dedication and hard work over the last 12 months.

We all need to take our turn being Martha from time to time, as long as we don't lose sight of Mary!

Jo Smith - Welcome Team Co-ordinator

HOUSE GROUPS REPORT

This year we have had 7 mid-week groups meeting; two daytime groups and five evening ones. Having taken over from Mary Wilson, I took the chance to visit some of the groups and discuss people's likes and dislikes. I must say a huge thank you to Mary for giving me such a good handover of materials and top tips – these have been invaluable! With such a good library of resources, and armed with the feedback from the groups, I felt we could allow the groups some choice in materials to suit their individual needs and preferences.

Over the last two terms we have therefore seen different groups looking at different materials, with season-specific materials on offer for Advent and Lent. The groups seem to be enjoying taking their time over materials and using them in their own individual ways, along with their own styles of prayer and worship as often as they meet. One of the common themes that came out of the discussions I had with each group was how valuable they find their house groups as a support network and for teaching and fellowship. I am keen to start up one or two more groups in the coming year if possible, to allow more people to benefit from this fellowship and grow in relationship with some of our church family.

"Hungry" also continues once a month with a small but regular attendance on a Tuesday evening where we worship and pray together.

A big thank you as ever to all the leaders and the hosts – we couldn't do it without you!

Sarah Johnson - House Group Co-ordinator

EVANGELISM REPORT

It's been twenty one years since this adventure first started, and in the mists of time, I guess my expectations were probably different than today.

I would like to thank all those faithful friends who over the years have stood with me.

Looking back on the results of those twenty one years there is a feeling of joy that there has been such enduring friendships that have been forged as a result of door knocking.

It's all a bit old hat now but there has been wonderful support for me personally from friends who do not attend St. Matt's yet are inextricably linked by love and friendship.

Maybe to quote Bob Dylan, "The times they are a changing."

Every Blessing.

Trevor Long - Evangelist

MISSION GROUP REPORT

Summary of Main Mission 'Links':

Our 'official' church links currently comprise three main overseas links:

- SOUTH AMERICA – Peru Pat Blanchard (CMS mission partner) based in Lima
(Church contact for info: Mary Wilson)
- SOUTH AFRICA Steve & Diana Morris (The Sozo Foundation) based in Cape Town
(Church contacts for info: Chris & Carole Wicks)
- AFRICA - Tanzania - Diocese of Geita, Tanzania (AICT – Africa Inland Church of Tanzania)
- Samuel and Pendo Limbe based in Mwanza, Tanzania (AICT)

One UK based link:

- Birmingham Children's Hospital - Ruth Radley (CMS mission partner) based in the chaplaincy team
(Church contact for info: Sarah Johnson)

And one main local link:

- 'Life & Soul', based in Tunbridge Wells, working with children and young people aged 5-25
(Church contact for info: Emily Cheeseman)

As a church we also give significant support to 'TEAR FUND'

(Church contact for info: Liz Johnson)

We are giving prayer support to one our former 'Kairos' Gap year workers, Ellie Steven, who has just departed on her first placement with Medicin Sans Frontiers at the beginning of this month to Gaza, working as a theatre nurse.

GIVING OF TITHE

It is a great joy for the Mission Group to be able to prayerfully allocate the giving of our church tithe to both our main links and to a large number of other charities/people (local, national & international).

We currently give £1,800 to each of our Main Mission Links as the financial part of our commitment to their support. Smaller amounts are then given to a variety of other people and groups both locally and nationally.

MISSION PRAYER BREAKFAST

We believe that our support of those in Mission should be more than just financial, so the Mission Prayer Breakfast provides one opportunity (for those who can manage early mornings!) to gather over a simple breakfast, share news and be able to pray together for our Mission Partners, often ministering in tough situations. We believe that prayer makes a difference, so if you have a heart for praying for Mission, you would be incredibly welcome to join us! (8 am on the 3rd Sunday of the month in the Church Centre).

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR!

Nourish - We have continued our commitment to this local food bank charity by giving food donations to 'Nourish' on the 1st Sunday of every month as well as on Harvest Sunday. With ever increasing demands on 'Nourish', we also gave a financial gift from our tithe.

Visiting Sozo - Liz and Sarah Johnson visited Sozo in Cape Town in October and were able to share their impressions with us on their return. Gill and Hannah Fuller also visited in February this year. They were all so impressed with all that God is doing in so many different projects in bringing transformation and hope to the lives of young people in the township there.

Christmas Offering - Therapy Sessions for Shalom Centre, Lima - Our church family responded with great generosity to raising money for subsidising therapy sessions at Shalom (with the visual aid of our 'ballometer'! – each ball costing £5 for 2 therapy sessions!). We raised an amazing £4,135.05 which equates to 1,654 therapy sessions.

Visit from Ruth Radley

Ruth Radley came in February to update us on her inspiring work in the chaplaincy team at Birmingham City Children's Hospital Chaplaincy Team - ministering to patients, families and staff with great love and wonderfully creative ideas! (As well as retaining her link with South Sudan in her role of annual visiting lecturer to the college in Yei).

Tear Fund – Harvest offering and Lent speaker with 'Hunger Lunch'

As well as our Harvest collection in support of Tear Fund, we welcomed Andrew Meredith-Jones in March to speak to us about the work of Tear Fund and we had a simple bread & soup 'Hunger lunch' giving the money we would have spent on our Sunday lunches to the work of Tear Fund.

Mary Wilson - Mission Co-ordinator

Link with Nourish Community Foodbank, Tunbridge Wells & St Matthew's Church

904.35 kg is the total weight of food items donated by members of St Matt's for 2017/2018. THANK YOU VERY MUCH! St. Matt's continued support and prayers is much appreciated by the Foodbank.

In 2017, St. Matt's were able to gift £500 out of Tithes. Rosemary Blanchard also raised £50 for Nourish from a coffee morning held at St Matt's.

Nourish continues to need regular food donations, but this current year, will be focusing on monetary donations as well to help support families.

Nourish have seen a sustained increase in the use of foodbanks in the UK and, in such a wealthy area as Tunbridge Wells, some people still cannot afford to put food on the table. In both Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge, over 16% of households are living in poverty with the overall percentage of children living under the relative poverty line in Tunbridge Wells increasing again in 2015 to 17.54%. In certain areas of the town this can be as high as 31%.

It now costs £100,000 a year to keep Nourish operating and they are expecting numbers to show that clients have increased dramatically, as they did the previous year.

Nourish Community Foodbank also urgently needs a treasurer, a volunteer book keeper as well as more trustees, specifically specialised in fundraising.

Nourish now have 1100 square feet of storage at Big Yellow Storage Unit on the North Farm Industrial Estate and currently give out around 800 kilos of food per week.

Food donated by St. Matt's members on the first Sunday of the month, continues to be collected by me and delivered to the Big Yellow Warehouse Unit. Your generous support for this local charity is highly valued and very much appreciated.

Dee Harper - Evangelist & Pastoral Assistant

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

The last few months have been particularly sad for members of St. Matt's as we have said goodbye to some very dear friends and family members.

The church has rallied around and supported those grieving in a remarkable way and I know will be walking alongside the bereaved as their journey continues.

St. Matt's does not have a formal visiting or pastoral care team, but every member takes it upon themselves to offer, love, care, support and prayer when it is at all possible.

The Discipleship page on Facebook enables us to share prayer or need requests quickly and efficiently so that information is shared promptly.

House groups and Pods offer pastoral care on an individual basis, but Chris and I are also available to support people if needed.

Some individuals enjoy visiting and praying with people and we really value the time, commitment and love that they give doing this.

As usual we had our Easter Hot cross buns and Christmas mince pies afternoon 'teas' for the retired in our home. We so enjoy these afternoons where we get to catch up with people and spend some time with them.

Rosemary Blanchard continues to hold termly coffee mornings and termly lunches which are much appreciated by those who attend.

Revive for women continues to meet once a term with either a breakfast, worship and speaker or a social event. The Christmas craft event was a great success again with over 100 attending and going home with lots of amazing Christmas gifts and an invite to our Christmas services. It is so encouraging to see members of our community and their friends coming to our social events, which we pray will lead to them asking questions about our faith and taking steps towards coming to know Jesus.

The men's group Restore also had a curry night with Mark Lavender coming back to speak at it.

If you would like to help with Pastoral Care, or would like to offer meals when needed, please contact me on 01892 529098 or the Church Office.

Carole Wicks - Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator

FRIDAY BREAKFAST CAFÉ

We have a core of regular customers and occasional new faces either sitting at tables or benefitting from our 'take-away' service. On average we deal with 50 – 60 orders each week, varying from a simple bacon baguette to a full English breakfast consisting of bacon, egg, sausage, beans and toast with tomatoes, hash browns and mushrooms as optional extras. Our prices have not changed since the start, which we feel is right in the present economic climate.

The café could not run without the commitment of the team of regular volunteers who selflessly give up their Friday mornings to ensure its continued success. Grateful thanks are due to Hazel Hoad, Christine Marshal, Richard Foot and Steve Blackford, who help with the cooking, drinks and keep the kitchen running smoothly, to Gordon Blanchard who keeps us on our toes taking orders and ensuring nothing slips through the net, and to Paul Sullivan who ably devotes himself to the washing up, and finally to Helen Steven who ensures there are flowers on every table and, more importantly leads us in prayer at the start of each session.

We continue to pray that the love of Jesus will be felt by all those who come in, and that those who don't yet know Him might want to know more about what He has done for us and to get to know Him for themselves.

David Johnson - Churchwarden

FABRIC REPORT

Church fabric

The fabric of the church is in generally good condition and only a few minor repairs have been necessary during the past year:

- Following the installation of a new boiler last year, a leak was discovered in the second boiler which has now been replaced.
- A new digital sound desk has been purchased and additional facility box and associated power sockets installed to suit.
- The Youth Ministers' office has been redecorated and the external doors on the Gordon road frontage have been re-painted
- The church carpet was cleaned during the summer holidays.
- We have had the Church Centre electricity meter removed (originally installed when Age Concern were using the Day Centre).
- The overgrown bushes and plants on the High Brooms Road frontage have been cut back.

We had a request from the Ladies Section of Southborough and High Brooms Royal British Legion to have their banner laid up in the church. A faculty was duly obtained and the banner installed on the south wall of the Narthex at the back of church.

Church hall fabric

The following minor repairs have been carried out during the year:-

- A new burner element has been fitted to the RHS gas heater
- The faulty electricity meter has been replaced.
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Local estate agents Hunni Homes have generously provided and installed a new cooker and fridge in the hall kitchen.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have assisted with the various jobs around the church and the church hall. In particular, Steve Blackford, Mike Southwick and Lance Savage, without whose help I would not have managed.

David Johnson - Churchwarden

OPERATIONS/ADMINISTRATION

General

Having been working in the office for over 18 months now, I feel a lot more settled and at home in what I am doing. The first year felt like a huge learning curve!

My job is incredibly varied and there are often things which crop up which are not in my job description! It is great to work in a team where everyone helps each other out, though. An average week for me includes admin for Sunday's services, answering emails and phone calls about all sorts of things, attending and minuting Leadership and DCC meetings, taking bookings

(for halls, baptisms, reading of banns, weddings), organising rotas, moving chairs, and generally managing church life!

An added responsibility I have gained this year is line-managing Lois, which is working well. We are so blessed to have great children's and youth ministers!

A big thank-you to everyone who contributes to the running of St. Matt's, not just on Sundays, but all through the week. There are some amazing behind-the-scenes volunteers who give so much to keep our church going.

As usual, just as one big thing is completed in the office, another comes along! Thanks to all those who helped with our church weekend recently – it felt like the start of some great ideas and new thinking, which we now need to take forward and run with.

The next big thing to sort out is GDPR, and if you haven't signed a consent form yet, you'll be getting one soon! There are also a lot of other changes to make in the office to make sure we are complying with the new rules.

Just as we finish our GDPR overhaul, we will be starting to think about what it means for us to become an independent parish, and all the things we need to put into place to make that happen.

Pre-school / Hall

I have responsibility for lettings of the hall, which is mainly used by the preschool during term time. I liaise with David Johnson regarding repairs and maintenance.

The hall is also currently let on Saturdays on a regular basis to a children's theatre group, and is used for parties at weekends occasionally.

We also use the hall for Glow on Sunday mornings.

Budgets / Finance

Part of my role is managing the office, stationery and catering budgets, as well as ordering in these items. We are always looking for ways to keep our expenses at a reasonable level, and we can all contribute to looking after our resources and using these wisely.

We still have some old equipment that can hopefully be sold, and my aim is to get this moved over the summer.

Health and Safety

We have updated and approved our Health and Safety Policy this year, and we are increasingly aware of our responsibility to make sure we are keeping people safe in our buildings and under our care.

Personnel / HR

Another document that has been updated this year across the Team Ministry is our Staff Handbook. This was approved by the PCC and is available for all staff.

We are also making sure that staff have regular review meetings with their line manager, as well as our weekly staff meetings, to give staff the opportunity for feedback and ongoing accountability.

Alongside managing Lois, I manage Sue Green, the Church Cleaner, and Chris Skilton who comes in sometimes to act as Groundsman for the Church, the Church Hall and the Bethel. Both work very hard to keep the building and the grounds clean and presentable and we thank them for their ongoing commitment.

Hannah Mwesigwa - Operations Manager

FINANCE REPORT

Please see the attached accounts summary for 2017 and the budget for 2018.

Kate Whitehead - Treasurer