



**St Margaret's Church,
Chipstead Parish**

**Annual Report and Accounts
of the
Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended
31 December 2017**

VOLUME I



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ST MARGARET'S CHIPSTEAD ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS – Volume I

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Preface from the churchwardens

One of the oldest phrases in the English language is “*Time and Tide wait for no man*”. Having looked it up on the internet, we discovered that the earliest known text containing this phrase dates from 1225 so the phrase itself certainly pre-dates this time. One might conjecture that it is almost as old as time itself. It means that no one is strong enough to stop the march of time except God himself.

2017 is a year when it has certainly felt as if time has moved on decisively for St Margaret’s. Our Rector, Phil Jackson, left us to become chaplain at Reigate Grammar School and whilst we were all sad to say goodbye to Phil, Steph and the family, the move represents a new and exciting chapter for the Jackson family. Before he was ordained, Phil was a teacher and his new job allows him to combine two great passions. We are hugely thankful for all that Phil brought to St Margaret’s during his time with us – in particular his boundless energy and his passion for preaching. We wish him and the family every happiness and fulfilment in their future life and we pray that God will continue to walk with them all.

It is tempting to think of Phil moving on as a unique defining moment in the life of St Margaret’s. For some of you, he is the only Rector you may have known. However, we only have to glance at the board on the south wall of the church to see that this has happened many times before in the history of our parish. Indeed, we have now almost filled three boards with past rectors so that a departing rector is far from being a unique event. A period of vacancy gives us all an opportunity to regroup, to think how we want St Margaret’s to move forwards and to refocus ourselves a little.

This was the process the PCC went through during September. Of course, the shape and future direction of St Margaret’s and the identity of our new rector is not our choice alone – we are here to carry out the will of God. As such the job of the PCC was not so much to decide these things but to discern them – to pray and to listen to what God is saying to us. As churchwardens we were so grateful for the energy and engagement that the PCC gave to this process. In the spirit of trying to discern God’s will, all members of the PCC contributed to the debate but also respectfully listened to the words of others so that we collectively came to a view on where God wants us to go and who God wants to lead us there. For any who want to read these discernments for themselves, please look at the parish profile which is still on the website.

So, as we came to November and December, we were able to move forward with the process of finding our next rector. We were blessed to have three excellent people offer to lead us and we are now excitedly awaiting the installation of the Reverend Susie Williams at the end of April. As Alexander Graham Bell once said - "*When one door closes another opens*". We have been praying for Susie as she finishes her current role and prepares to start at St Margaret's and we also pray for her current parishes as they begin the same process of discernment that we have been through in 2017.

Although this process has taken much time and energy, as we read through this report it is wonderful to see that life at St Margaret's has continued unabated and so many of our activities have continued to thrive and grow. As Phil said last year, we have continued to move forward and to grow as a community of faith.

As churchwardens, we owe a huge debt of thanks to the ministry team and in particular to Alison, John, Kim, Andrew and Madeleine for enabling us to maintain our schedule of three services every Sunday as well as fulfilling our commitments to baptism, wedding and funeral ministries. None of the four of them are remunerated for this work and in a time of vacancy the schedule must sometimes feel relentless. Thank you for spiritually nurturing us so well over the past months.

A parish vacancy provides opportunities for us to invite guests to share Bible teaching with us and develop new skills for themselves and we've been blessed by the many different people who have been willing to take on new responsibilities during this time.

In a year of change, we were delighted to be able to appoint Amy Reeves as our new Youth Worker in May. She's worked tirelessly to provide a full range of discipleship and social activities for our young people as you'll see in her report.

With Phil's decision to move on we also lost Steph as our wonderful children and families worker. She achieved so much during her time in the role and the range and quality of children's and families' activities as described later in the report is a testimony to that achievement. We thank God for all the positive encouragement and joyful energy she gave to this ministry. Thank you Steph.

The PCC are committed to continuing to support and grow this area of ministry and we hope to be able to appoint a new Children & Families Leader in the near future.

As part of the interview process for the new Rector, we were asked more than once whether St Margaret's is a parish where responsibility for all activity lies solely with the rector. Nothing could be further from the truth. As the contents of this report amply demonstrate, there are so many things going on at St Margaret's the vast majority of which are inspired and run by people sacrificially giving their time and resources to God's work. It has been this sense of purpose and community which has enabled us to continue so effectively during the vacancy – St Margaret's is not simply a church run by a few dedicated people, rather it is a Christian community working together to know and share God's transforming love with each other, our community and the wider world.

So we would urge you to turn the pages of this Annual Report and feel as inspired as we do by all that is going on within our parish. If you feel called by God to join in with any of our activities, or indeed, if you feel inspired to explore other new possibilities, then please get in touch with one of our staff team or PCC members for a chat. We value all offers of help and support, small or large.

We would like to offer our grateful thanks to God for all that he has done over the past year. As we sometimes say at the start of our services **God is Good all the time. All the time God is good.**

Shirley Page and Chris Taylor

Mission Action Plan

Our five-year MAP was set out by the PCC in 2014 and our targets and progress through 2017 are as follows:

1. *'To plan a youth ministry strategy including both church based and community youth work with the intention of employing a Christian youth worker as part of that strategy.'*

In 2017, we were able to appoint Amy Reeves as our new Youth & Communities worker. Amy and the youth team have provided a programme of faith based and life relevant sessions for our two youth groups – Ignite & 14+, as well as a wide range of social and relationship building activities. They have begun to forge links with neighbouring churches and local community organisations and have joined in with a number of shared initiatives during the year.

2. *'To establish a community support network including visiting people in their homes and a regular opportunity to share food & hospitality.'*

Over the past year this MAP target has continued to develop in 2 strands. Firstly, CAMEO which has become a fixed and stable community support for people across the Parish. It is becoming known as a place to find and

share hospitality, with people looking out for one another and offering support in small and simple ways. In this way a network is growing which allows us as a church to be a place of welcome and a resource to support the community. The provision of the Hearing Champions on a monthly basis and the Sight and Sound Bus in July provides a service for the community alongside hospitality with a cup of tea and cake.

The second strand of visiting of individuals has continued by the staff team. John in particular has a special role to play in this with a number of people he regularly visits. At the staff meeting we pick up others who may appreciate contact; if they are part of a Lifegroup this is often the place where support can be offered. For others the staff team will offer to visit, in hospital, ill at home, lonely and isolated or dealing with a difficult situation. We are happy to visit but don't always know who would appreciate a visit. Therefore please let us know.

3. *'To set up a 'Fresh Expression' of Church in Netherne.'* (A 'Fresh Expression' is a church plant which is focussed on those who are not yet part of church and is appropriate for the culture of the location)

After a great deal of prayer, it looked as though St Margaret's would be instrumental in partnering with Netherne Management Limited in providing a community café in the village and negotiations started in 2017. However, with Phil's departure we felt it was something we were unable to proceed with and the café has since opened independently. We feel that despite not being involved now, it was our prompting that gave NML the idea to continue with it and it has provided a facility for the residents.

We continue to wait patiently for God to show us the right way forward. It is important that we get it right. We know that when we do, it will be something that will flourish and grow. In the meantime, we are continuing to develop community links with our support for the Netherne Stay 'n' Play sessions and the Christmas carols and party. In 2017 we held our children's summer holiday club in Netherne

The Parochial Church Council

Structure, Governance and Management

St. Margaret's Parochial Church Council (PCC) is responsible for:

- a. Co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.
- b. The consideration of matters concerning the Church of England or other matters of religious or public interest.
- c. Putting into effect any provisions made by Diocesan or Deanery Synods.

More specifically, the PCC is responsible for the maintenance of church buildings (St. Margaret's Church, the Orchard, the Peter Aubertin Hall and the Mugswell Mission Hall), for safeguarding and for the employment of staff. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

At St. Margaret's membership of the PCC consists of Rector (vacant for part of 2017), Churchwardens, Readers and members elected at the Annual Parochial Meeting by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.

At the end of 2017 the membership was:

Ex Officio members:

Hon Curate: Rev'd John Wates OBE Curate: Rev'd Alison Elson

Church Wardens: Chris Taylor, Shirley Page

Readers: Andrew Britton (Acting PCC Chair),
Madeleine MacCallum, Kim Honey

Elected members:

Ray King (Secretary)	Martin Mabbutt (Treasurer)	Jenny Smith
Katy Deragon	Amanda King	Angela Robertson
Lorraine Fitzwater	Wendy Morgan	David MacCallum
Ros Lunberg	John Robertson	David Weatherall
Paul Johns	Sally Foxen (Co-Opted)	David Reid

Elected members of Deanery Synod:

Chris Taylor, Kim Honey, Sally Bowes

The PCC has the following committees:

- Management Group has power to transact PCC business between meetings, within policies laid down by the Council, and acts as PCC Finance Committee.
- Fabric Committee: responsible for maintenance and protection of church buildings and churchyard and refurbishment and re-ordering projects.
- Mission Group: responsible for fund-raising and disbursement of funds and continuing links with mission organisations at home and abroad.
- ECO Church Group: Looking at how we can operate as a more eco-friendly church.
- HR Committee: responsible for ensuring we meet employers' requirements and provide a positive, fruitful environment for employees.

- A Staff Team meets weekly on Mondays to plan services and undertake routine management of our various ministries.

St. Margaret's Church is in the Diocese of Southwark and Deanery of Reigate within the Church of England. The address is: St Margaret's Church, Church Lane, Chipstead, CR5 3RD. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and members are Trustees of the Registered Charity No: 1139738, the church.

The PCC met for regular meetings 7 times during the year plus a half day additional meeting to pray and plan for the new rector appointment. Many of the PCC also attended a Diocesan Safeguarding training evening. Other committees and teams met as required, and the results of their deliberations were reported to the PCC and discussed as appropriate. During the Vacancy Andrew Britton was acting chair of the PCC. Topics on the PCC agenda and discussed throughout the year included the vacancy, both to ensure we continue in all areas of mission as well as the recruitment of a new rector, Mission Action Plan, Children's & Youth groups, Safeguarding, Human Resources, Deanery Synod Updates, Budget for 2017 and financial outlook for 2018.

The PCC considered Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, particularly the specific guidance on charities for advancement of religion.

The church of St Margaret serves the community through:

- Worship and prayer; teaching the Gospel; developing knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

The purpose of St Margaret's church has been defined by the PCC as to know and share God's transforming love with one another, with our local community and with the wider world. **Ray King, PCC Secretary**

Electoral roll:

Numbers were 239 at the end of the year. It is continually updated and all changes are reported to the PCC. Applications are posted in the porch prior to PCC approval. Those who have been worshipping with us for a while are encouraged to fill in a form, on the back shelf at church. (You do need to have been baptised).

Pastoral Care

As a church family, and like any other family, at times we all need help, maybe because of ill health, bereavement, work or family issues. Help

may be take different forms; a listening ear, a visit, practical support or prayer. Often we support each other through friendship, Lifegroups and other informal networks. For those not in Lifegroups or where this is not the right avenue for help, the staff team should be the first point of contact.

Pastoral Care extends beyond the church walls to our community. It is very much part of our continuing ministry with baptisms, weddings and funerals as these points of contacts bring us close to people at times of joy and sorrow. The teams involved in these ministries demonstrate continue their support over many years. However we all have pastoral responsibility for all who live in the parish who are in need and would welcome a visit then we are happy to do so. Again the staff team should be the first point of contact.

Fabric Report

The Church and Churchyard

Looking after an 800 year old building means that the repair work is a never ending task. 2017 was no exception to this and there was a plethora of minor repairs particularly to the electrical supply and circuits.

However, the major repair was to the heating system where the boiler needed to be replaced. This was caused by a combination of the age of the old boiler and safety concerns for dealing with the exhaust fumes. Safety standards continue to evolve and we were informed as part of the annual inspection that the system that had operated for a number of years no longer met modern safety requirements. A new boiler with a compliant system for dealing with exhaust fumes was installed over the summer.

As well as needing repairing the church also needs to be cleaned once a week and we are particularly grateful to the volunteers who undertake the periodic “big cleans”. We are also very grateful to all of the volunteers who maintain the churchyard on a weekly basis throughout the spring and summer and help out at the Saturday morning working parties. Without their selfless contribution, the churchyard would not look so beautiful.

Within the churchyard, the major work has been to install lighting along the pathway from the lychgate to The Orchard. Funds for this were raised from the 2016 fete. We were very fortunate to have two members of our congregation, Graham Smith and Jon Hill, who were able to undertake much of this work personally enabling us to complete the work to a high standard and on budget. In particular, Graham used his

skills as a church lighting consultant to design the system for us. We are also grateful to Graham's son who now owns and runs the company, for donating to us a floodlight that we can use to light the east wall of the church. This enabled us to backlight the window behind the altar for the Carols by Candlelight service. This complemented the internal lighting which was graciously provided by Rick Lancaster.

The Peter Aubertin Hall

Following the replacement of the kitchen floor in 2016 reported last year, we were able to redecorate the Hall outside and inside over the course of the year. Logistically, with the Hall in constant use by the Chipstead pre-school during term time, arranging for decoration is not straightforward and particular thanks to Ian Thirlwall for organizing the work during very short school holidays. We have spent considerable amounts on The Peter Aubertin Hall over the past two years and we hope we can now have a period to rebuild the reserves we have spent.

The Orchard

The Orchard continues to be well used and, thankfully, we have not seen the return of any of the damp problems which we encountered when it was first built. As such we took the opportunity to close many of the inspection holes we created when investigating this issue and in early 2018 we redecorated the walls.

Mugswell Mission Hall

The hamlet of Mugswell is towards the southern end of St Margaret's parish. It contains the old rectory of Chipstead and also a mission hall dating from the early years of the twentieth century. The use of the hall for worship was restarted six years ago. Since then, services have been held 3 or 4 times a year led by Andrew Britton and attended by 20 or so members of the village community, their family and friends. Whilst the Hall belongs to St Margaret's, it continues to be the centre of community social activities and is run by a local Hall committee. We are grateful to all of the people in Mugswell who run and maintain the Hall on our behalf.

Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod, made up of Clergy and lay members, meets 3 times a year at different churches in the Deanery. The current Area Dean is the Rev'd Andrew Cunnington and the Lay Chair is Chris Elliott. St Margaret's has four Lay members (currently Andrew Britton, Sally Bowes, Margaret Quaife and Kim Honey), who are elected for a three-year term. The Rector automatically qualifies for the House of Clergy. Their remit is to act on behalf of St Margaret's and to report back to the PCC after each Synod meeting. Being a member of Deanery Synod is a great way to

get to know members of our neighbouring churches and to gain an insight into the work of Reigate Deanery.

Meetings consist of visiting speakers, reports from Synod representatives, the Boards of Finance and Education and reports on Deanery events planned or have recently taken place. Parishes also share their own news and details of specific events they are hosting.

Since the last APCM the synod met 3 times, in June, October and February. The June meeting was the first of the current Synod so focused on the election and welcome of new members, including a talk from Rachel Gardner, the Deanery Children and Young Persons Champion, and this meeting concluded with a shared Eucharist. In October the speaker was Ruth Martin, the Diocesan Secretary, whose talk covered the Southwark Vision Update, Lay Leadership and the Parish Support Fund.

Synod is now focusing on the 5 marks of mission and in February 2018 we heard from Adrian Greenwood and Anne Deering on 'Tell – the 1st mark of mission' as we looked at how we can proclaim the good news of the Kingdom. We look forward to looking together at the other marks of mission and to how we can live these out in our church and deanery.

If you are planning an event at St. Margaret's which would be good to report to other churches in the Deanery, please let your Deanery Synod reps know so that they can bring it to the Synod. Do talk to your reps and keep a look out on our noticeboards, as there are many exciting workshops and events taking place locally that we are welcome to attend.

Church Goods and Ornaments The goods and ornaments of the church have been checked and all was in order for signing off at the Archdeacon's inspection in March 2017.

Safeguarding

At St Margaret's we have adopted the policies and practices laid out by the Southwark Diocese, 'A Safe Church'. The Diocese also provides training sessions which many key members of the congregation have attended. In order to ensure that, as a church, we safeguard our young people and vulnerable adults, the PCC have appointed two Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) Jean Pearce and Geraldine Stephenson. It is everyone's responsibility to make St Margaret's safe for all users, so any suggestions or concerns, needs for training or for a DBS check should be referred to the Rector, your PSOs or the church wardens. DBS checks are now carried out on-line with documentation checked in-house.

HR

The HR group meets regularly to advise the PCC on matters relating to employees and staff – both paid and unpaid. We are aware of the opportunities and challenges that arise during a parish vacancy which can result in additional burdens placed on all our staff and volunteer teams and this year we have introduced a ‘Love our Workers’ document which sets out the principles which help us make sure we offer good pastoral support for our employees and volunteer teams with a commitment to providing prayer support; opportunities for reflection and training; and a shared responsibility in ministry. We have been supporting the process for recruiting a new Children & Families leader and we have reviewed policies and procedures relating to expenses, overtime and annual review arrangements.

Worship

Worship is at the very heart of who we are as a people. Jesus calls us in Mark chapter 12 to ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ A key part of expressing and growing in that love is through our worship together. We are so thrilled that at St. Margaret’s we have different opportunities through the week to worship.

Regular Services

We have Morning Prayer every weekday morning from 9 to 9.30am and all are welcome to come to that. We also have a mid-week communion service monthly on Wednesday mornings followed by a coffee and a chat. Again all are welcome to this. However the heart of our worshipping week is still on Sundays where we have three main services of very different styles.

Our regular Sunday services are:

8.00am: BCP Holy Communion (Said traditional language worship)

9.00am: Morning Worship: alternate Morning Prayer and Holy Communion (Structured worship with organ)

10.45am: Morning Worship, monthly Holy Communion and All Age Family Service (Informal worship with music group)

Special services

There have been a number of very special services in the last year. The Christian festivals continue to be well attended and much appreciated eg. Mothering Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Patronal Festival, Living with Loss (All Souls), Remembrance, Christmas, Christingle etc.

We again offered two Carols by Candlelight services both well attended this year. For the second year as well as the popular Crib service, we had a Nativity service for adults on Christmas Eve. This was a dramatic re-telling of the Christmas story and was a huge success giving people another opportunity to experience the truth and joy of Christmas.

Occasional services

It is such a privilege to welcome people into our church at such a significant time of their lives. 2017 saw 7 weddings, 12 baptisms, 8 funerals (including burial of ashes and memorial services). We continue to pray that God will use this aspect of our ministry here to draw people to his love and grace.



Confirmation service

Amy Reeves and Libby Egwuba lead a new style of confirmation course for two of our young people that used film clips to aid discussion, activities, bible study, meditation and prayer in exploring their faith. On 12 November 2017 Amy Ellis was confirmed by The Bishop of Southwark at Holy Trinity, Redhill with members of neighbouring churches.



Church staff team

The staff team, paid and volunteers, operates well covering a wide range of church life areas. Rev Alison Elson was ordained priest in June and has since become an invaluable part of the team, sharing the priestly and many pastoral duties with John Wates during the vacancy.

The Parish Office is manned on Thursday mornings plus Tuesday mornings apart from school holidays. We are grateful to Jenny Smith and Deborah Mathews for covering the ever growing demanding requirements of administration.

Our thanks go to Arlene Donovan, Lorraine Fitzwater and David MacCallum for hours spent on production of the Parish Magazine and to the many people involved in distribution. A huge thank you to all of you for the hard work over the last few years! (The team are always looking for new articles – might you have something to contribute?)

Our Churchwardens Shirley Page and Chris Taylor have continued to give real leadership to the church especially during the months of the vacancy. Shirley has continued to Chair the Human Resources Team in a busy year looking at how we can best support our employees and help us to carry out reviews and be compliant with employment legislation in other areas.

Chris has been chairing the Fabric Team, ably supported by a superb and active team. They have also had a very busy year implementing the recommendations of the quinquennial report as well as all the other ongoing fabric and maintenance related issues. The result of all this hard work by so many is that the church buildings and church yard are in excellent shape.

Libby Egwuba continues to coordinate our music for Sunday worship and special events with a very successful choir formed again this Christmas. As a church we continue to benefit from Libby's leadership in this area and we are very grateful to all our organists and singers and instrumentalists for helping us so well in this area.

We continue to benefit from the ministry of Rev John Wates, our Honorary Curate. John has many gifts but he continues to particularly enjoy the ministry of weddings and pastoral work. It is so valuable to have the ministry of someone who can take the long view of life in Chipstead and St. Margaret's having been based here in Chipstead on and off for the whole of his life. We are very grateful for John's wisdom and support over the last year.

Steph Jackson was a great asset as children and families worker, and since she has moved on, we are actively seeking a replacement for this important and exciting ministry. Amy Reeves stepped into Charlie Day's shoes and is doing amazing work building up the work with youth both in our parish and in the wider Deanery.

Sally Foxen retired after 36 years as a SPA, and is now a "SPA Emeritus!", She continues to lead the wedding team and helps out with other administrative tasks. Our other SPA Margaret Quaife has been unwell over this last year but still continues to keep in touch with people pastorally over the phone and help out where she can. If you know of anyone in any kind of pastoral need please let one of the clergy know in the first instance and we can co-ordinate support.

Our Lay Readers, Andrew Britton, Madeleine McCallum and Kim Honey continue to contribute to our worship as well as being involved in many other areas of church life.

Rosemary Banks continues to offer herself in a voluntary capacity as Sacristan, and Jon Hill helping out with small maintenance jobs on our buildings to reduce our reliance on outside contractors. A huge thankyou also goes to Roy Elliot and Nigel Smith for all their work keeping our churchyard looking so beautiful.

Volunteers

Any church is only as strong as those who so willingly give of their time and volunteer. St. Margaret's is no exception. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all volunteers who work so hard to make our church such a lively, welcoming community; whether the hospitality team, flower ladies, churchyard team or one of the other myriad of groups who contribute to life at St Margaret's - a very sincere thank you!

Once again we have completed our annual Commitment Series recognising that in a growing church we need to draw more people into church life to volunteer in different ways to avoid burn out for those who already do so much. Volunteering for a ministry in church is a wonderful way of serving God and putting our faith into practice. We look forward to seeing many more drawn into serving in some way but we are so grateful for those who give so much already - thank you so much!

ECO Church Committee

During the past year we hope we have been able to make people more aware of the need to recycle as much as possible: we have improved the recycling opportunities within church activities - for example the food waste caddies – and produced a Reduce, Reuse, Recycle information sheet that was distributed to church goers.



We are creating a purpose-built compost area in the churchyard so that green waste can be put back on the land where needed. We received lots of help and enthusiasm from the children and young people who participated in 'green' activities – in particular at Messy Church – while learning about God's creation and how important it is to look after the world He made for us. The bug hotel was really impressive!

In September we celebrated Creationtide over three weeks leading up to our Harvest Festival and welcomed Sue Mallinson, the Diocesan Environmental Advisor, to talk at all three services. We also explained to congregations what we are trying to achieve, and how the Eco Church ethos of caring for God's creation affects every aspect of church life: worship, teaching, buildings and land, community and lifestyle.

In the coming year, with the help of our new rector, we hope to build on these foundations and look forward to some fruitful co-operation between the members of the group and you, the churchgoers. For a start, please consider joining us as we need more people! Sally Bowes

Music

Worship through music at St Margaret's continues to be a blessing and a joy. The Christmas Choir attracts ever more participants, getting stronger and better every year! The enthusiasm was again overwhelming this year and Libby was 100% grateful. 9am services are well covered by three very talented organists, Martin Mabbutt, Elaine Cheng-Whitehead and Sally Bowes. The rota for 10.45 services still proves very beneficial. Frank Foxen, Graham Hallett and Martin Hall, although not part of our worshipping congregation, occasionally play for our weddings and funerals, and we are very thankful for this.

Libby Egwuba and Sue Corrance attended "Worship4Today" Course. This course spanned a year and both completed portfolios and projects. Much was learnt and already has been a benefit for them, the band and the congregation. Understanding of how to lead worship through music and much more. Libby and Sue attended a certificate presentation service at Southwark cathedral on the completion of the course.

In sept 2017 the 10.45am band were invited back to the Cathedral for another spirituality day, and they've also been invited to lead the music worship at a Deanery day towards the end of 2018.

We've done one or two Youth Music Jamming sessions organised by Amy Reeves and run by Libby Egwuba. A few of the Youth from Woodmansterne joined us for this. We hope to do more of these in the future and play at a few more All Age Services.

We have had some lovely new people join the band for 10.45am service and we are grateful for this. The band is still looking for more instrumentalists to join them. (Do contact Libby Egwuba if you are 18 or above and play a musical instrument and would like to join the 10.45am music team.) We are grateful to all who care so much about our music - may we continue to bless our Father in heaven with our music offering!

Prayer ministry and Prayer Action Team

We continue to offer individual prayer after 9am and 10.45am services. On some Sundays we offer a simple prayer of anointing for those who wish it after returning from Holy Communion. Sometimes this is a prayer specifically for healing at others for blessing and wholeness.

Many of us have questions about prayer; how, what, when etc. which make us think prayer is difficult. Alison led a prayer workshop in February looking at ways we could engage with praying. The idea was to have a go at praying and to learn from one another as we experienced silence, used our artistic abilities and scripture, as we walked and prayed.

As part of the Archbishop's Thy Kingdom Come initiative in June the church was open and prayer took place for 12 hours. There were two people 'on duty' each hour and we had over 50 people come into the church (a number were walkers but they came into the building and who knows how many prayed). There were prayer stations available but also a number of people had contributed their 'faith pictures' in a visual form having completed the Faith Pictures course during Lent.

We again took part in the National Prayer Weekend in the autumn again with the church being open and our Parish held before God in prayer.

In January Phil led 2 evenings of Prayer Ministry Training as a refresher course for those already on the prayer team and for those interested in learning more about praying with others.

Morning Prayer is said in the chancel every weekday morning from 9.00–9.30am to which all are invited. There is time for reflection on the Bible readings for the day and spontaneous prayer including prayer requests from the Prayer Phone.

Children, Families and Youth ministry

We love the children and young people and the families who are part of our big church family and our wider community! We are blessed to be able to provide a whole variety of fun activities and groups to help our children learn more about discipleship and faith and we aim to work in a supportive partnership with parents. Our Sunday morning groups start the session with the rest of our church family at the start of the 10.45 service before gathering in the Orchard. There are usually between 30 and 50 children in our various groups who are looked after by a team of fabulous, dedicated leaders and helpers.

The leaders of children's, family and youth ministry groups meet together each term to reflect on our overall ministry and to support one another.

Junior Church

We have a thriving group of Junior Church children from two age groups – Splash (years 1-3) and X-Stream (years 4-6), who meet together in the main hall of the Orchard. We begin the session with an opportunity to relax and play, then share a Bible story and a game before exploring the message further with activities in small groups. We're using the Roots programme which links to the lectionary, so the main message is also being shared with adults in church.



Lots of our children go to different schools and don't meet up during the week, so we're aiming to expand our leadership team, so we can deliver part of the session in smaller groups of 6-8 children, to give everyone a better opportunity to get to know each other. We'd like to explore opportunities for children & families to gather

Bubbles:

This happy little group of 3-5year olds follows the Scripture Union Programme "Light Live" which is Bible based and has a wide variety of activities to choose from to suit the aim of the session. In addition to story and prayer, this may include acting, drawing, action rhymes, puppets, worship songs, craft activities, painting and an activity leaflet to take home and share with parents. As well leading up to Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, we looked some of the people of the Old Testament, and people that Jesus befriended, helped and healed.

We are delighted that we had three new children joining us in September and as many moved up to Junior Church. We had 19 children on our register. Sunday numbers range from five to ten children and three members of staff at most session. We encourage the children to pray, be outward looking and share their faith

Bubbles Leaders are very pleased to welcome Simon Meekings to our team of helpers. Bernadette Cheng Whitehead has helped us regularly since summer as part of her D of E challenge. She has a lovely rapport with the children and improved our singing greatly!

Crèche

We love seeing families at St Margaret's Church, Chipstead, but we understand that babies and toddlers sometimes need a little more play time than can be offered in the service. That's why, every Sunday at 10.45 we have a fun crèche at the front of the church, where children 3 and under can come and play games, read stories and be entertained by two helpers. Worshippers are welcome to stay with their little ones but they are also free to leave them, knowing they will be well looked after.

Crèche has seen some changes in 2017, we now wear light blue polo shirts so worshippers and children can identify us more easily. New toys are replacing old toys, and we hope to make the room brighter and more colourful, for the children. However, we sadly had to say goodbye to some of our helpers in crèche and we are looking for enthusiastic helpers to join our team. Until we gain more helpers, at the all age services, the crèche will be set up for play but will be unmanned. All other 10.45 services crèche will be looked after by two helpers.

Baby Group

Baby group aims to provide an opportunity for parents of very young children to get together, develop supportive friendships and share ideas and 'top tips' for managing the complex needs and demands of babies and small children. The group met at the Rectory until July and is currently on a break. This informal baby group is looking for a new co-ordinator who can offer a welcoming space for parents of very young children, coffee and cake and a 'pause for thought' bible based reflection.

Messy Church

Messy Church runs every 6 weeks and continues to thrive. We have a regular congregation of between 60 and 90 people, many of whom do not have a church background. There is a great sense of fun and teamwork and *our volunteers love to be part of the excitement and mess too!*



The children and their families spend an hour or so doing messy activities and crafts based on a Bible theme followed by a celebration time, with a story, a song and a prayer and reflection. Then we eat together, get to know each other and build friendships!

Everyone works hard to produce a range of themed activities at each session. We have looked at the stories of Jonah, Joshua, Caring for God's Earth and Praise like Fireworks as well as Messy Easter and Messy Christmas sessions.

Light Party

This year, we held a light party on 31st October. The children enjoyed a fabulous evening of games and sparkly fun as a safe alternative to celebrating Halloween. We hope to repeat this initiative in 2018.

Maggie's Song



Maggie's Song is a music and movement group for under 5's running every Friday 9:30-11:30am in in the Orchard. We run 34 sessions in an academic year. It is led by Elaine Cheng-Whitehead, and occasionally Amy Reeves, with the great support of Madeleine McCallum, Janet Groves and a fantastic team of ladies who do the refreshments. We begin with 30 minutes of structured music and movement with an educational element, and then have free play with refreshments.

We have 112 children on our current register with the number of children attending each week ranging from 26 to 40 and new families joining regularly. Not only do we serve families from our local community in Chipstead, Netherne, Mugswell and Hooley, but also our neighbours in Coulsdon, Banstead, Caterham, Purley and recently a large number from Walton-on-the-Hill. The 'season' at Maggie's Song for each child is on average 18 - 24 months. We currently have a large group of 2 - 3 year olds, some started with us as babies, with their older siblings and some now have younger siblings.

One of the joys of being part of Maggie's Song is seeing the transitions from babyhood to toddlerhood and to school age children. We have seen many families making horizontal moves into other St Margaret's activities for young children, such as Messy Church, Mother and Baby group when it was available, and some of our special children's Sunday services. Several children have 'graduated' into Bubbles regularly.

We are financially self-sufficient as we collect approx. £1200 per annum from our weekly donations (optional £2 per family) which enable us to purchase new instruments, resources and refreshments, as well as resources for our wider children and young people's activities.

There is a real sense of community at Maggie's Song, with a welcoming and friendly atmosphere and relationships built between families. Many parents feel it is a safe social space where they can relax with friends and have fun with their children. Families from Maggie's Song are meeting up and supporting each other in their daily lives. We organise nights out for parents/carers once a term - another chance to get to know people.

Holiday Club

We ran a holiday club in the second week of the summer holidays in Netherne Village Hall with 24 children coming to hear about Jesus being our superhero. We had a great time and a wonderful team of helpers over the three days, finished off with a Holiday Club service on the Sunday.

We had a brilliant variety of craft activities, food and science experiments, songs and games – and even helped Joseph Honey become a superhero and tested out his superhero powers. The children left knowing more about Jesus' amazing miracles and how much he loves them and gives us powers too.



Netherne

We support the Stay and Play group in Netherne once a month by helping to set up the room and also providing a craft table based on a theme. We also provided crafts for 100 children for the Netherne Christmas Party put on by the Residents Association. We have enjoyed getting to know some more families and have seen them come to Messy church and Maggie's song from hearing about it from our visits.

Youth Ministry

Amy Reeves became the new Youth and Communities Worker in May, and with the support of a fantastic team of enthusiastic volunteers, our young people have taken part in a wide variety of activities during the year. They went to Youth Services at Holy Trinity Brompton and Guildford Cathedral for Thy Kingdom Come; Heard 'Faithchild' perform and preach at a Youth Sound event in Caterham Community Church; Lived for 24 hours in a slum and raised over £160 for Slum Survivor; had 3 film & pizza nights; made up 2 teams for Quiz night (and didn't come last!); Made beautiful music at a jamming session with Libby; Supported and attended the Gatton Play; Held a Christmas party and took part in the Nativity Service on Christmas eve.



Starbucks drop-ins takes place on Wednesdays during term time after school/college and has become increasingly popular (8 or more on occasion!). The staff at Starbucks know them well now and give discounts when they can. Amy tries to ensure some meetings take place in holidays so more young people are able to attend who wouldn't normally be able to.

Ignite (11-14's)

Our Ignite group provides opportunities for young people to develop their personal faith and ask questions in a supportive and non-critical environment. They meet on Sunday mornings during the 10:45 service, apart from all age Sundays and the sessions are structured around Bible teaching and topics relevant to young people's interests and experiences. They have looked at Handling Emotions and World Issues this year. Many of this group have regular Sunday morning commitments with sports or musical activities so numbers in the group vary from 2–10.



Youth (14+)

The 14+ youth group are a small and diverse group and now meet mainly on Sunday evenings at Amy's home over pizza or at Starbucks over lunch. This has worked well, and is a preference to meeting in the Orchard.



Sessions have followed the same as the Ignite group but for an older audience. We have also welcomed two brothers from St Peters in Woodmansterne to this group recently meaning the group now has 5 young people regularly meeting and building new friendships.

Puppet Ministry.

In February One Way Puppet Ministry gave a day workshop in the Orchard for members of St Margaret's and others from the Reigate Deanery. Ten of our young people joined at least as many of our adults to learn the basics of puppetry with large hand puppets. At the end of



the afternoon four groups each performed their song which they had practised earlier. On Mothering Sunday Jack learned to appreciate all that his Mum does for him. In August Daphne helped Jack to share his love of Jesus appropriately with others.

In Spring the young people's puppet choir sang their worship song in church and sang "So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye" at the Jackson's leaving party in July.

Lifegroups

Life groups are like small churches within the larger church and as our three Sunday congregations have different flavours and characters, so do our nine life groups. Without exception, they continue to provide friendship, stimulation and support to increase knowledge and understanding of our faith and most importantly, to provide the opportunity of growing closer to God.



We use a variety of resources to do this, ranging from Bible study to using downloaded courses which are topical. Whichever is chosen, you may be sure it will provide much discussion and differences of opinion.

Our hope is that life groups will help us live out our time between Sundays as disciples of Jesus.

We believe we have a life group to suit everyone, wherever you are at on your faith journey – even if it's hardly started! Some groups meet weekly or fortnightly; some during the day, and others in the evening. Some groups attract younger people, some are single gender and others attract older people – or a mixture.

If you want to know more, please get in touch with Jen or Alison and they will suggest a group which might work for you. We say “might” because it's not one size fits all and some people shop around before they find a group they can comfortably call “home”.

Social Events

We had two events during 2017 organised by the Social Events Team. That's not to say that we didn't socialise at other times! i.e. Phil and Steph's leaving party, the patronal festival, Alison's ordination, various junior church events, the fete and nights out for Maggie and Song parents. We are rather good at socialising!



The team held a Beetle Drive in the Spring which was great fun for children as young as five and children as old as 85! It was fantastic to see all ages getting along so well together. Our other event was our sell-out Quiz Night in October ending with all standing in a rousing sing-a-long to Land of Hope and Glory! We raised £1000 for the Winter Night Shelter and Drop In – and raised awareness of the homeless problem in the area.

By the time you read this, we will have held a Burns Night and another Beetle Drive in the first two months of 2018. Do come along to our events – we try to appeal to all ages and tastes and deliberately keep prices as low as possible.

Wychcroft Retreat

Our annual 24 hour retreat saw 21 of us enjoying the sunshine and the daffodils around Wychcroft – the Diocesan Retreat Centre near Bletchingley. Led by Jane Hoskins, SPA, our theme was ‘Exploring the highways and byways of life’. We looked at what we metaphorically carry in our rucksacks, our bags and our suitcases. We thought about what signposts and waymarks guide us along the way. We wondered who our companions are – those we welcome and those we might find difficult.



This 24 hours, ending with Communion in Wychcroft's own very simple chapel, gives breathing space in busy lives with no meals to cook, no school runs, no shopping so you can be guilt-free and enjoy your time with God. The food is pretty good too!

CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

CAMEO has flourished over the last year, on average we have 20-25 people coming along each month. Each month there is always plenty of tea, coffee and cake but we have also had some activities/talks taking place as well. We have had dominoes, cribbage and cards, a visit from the Surrey Sight and Sound bus and Samaritan's Purse.

A number of people have become involved in the knitting of hats to be put into shoeboxes which are sent to various parts of the world as part of Operation Christmas child. We had a great quiz put on by Trevor, a local Hooley resident, which we all enjoyed and then we finished the year by having a Christmas lunch, with the hall looking very festive.

At each session of CAMEO our Hearing Champions have been available to clean, repair and provide new batteries for NHS hearing aids. This service is free and open to anyone from the local area.

Chipstead Lodge

On a monthly basis we continue to join residents and staff at Chipstead Lodge for worship together. Thanks to Sally Bowes joining us, the ability to sing has been enhanced, we sing; the old favourites, actions songs and more modern hymns. It is amazing to see residents who appear not involved in the service to suddenly begin to take part, whether through the singing, or prayers or Bible reading.

As we gathered together in November one resident said they wanted to thank God for another year. In our time of prayer we asked for any other prayers and a number of residents offered requests. It was great to see people wanting to connect with God and for us to be able to give them the opportunity to do so. Thank you to the team of Jon Hill, Juliet Chana, Jill Lindsay, Wendy Streatfield and Sally Bowes.

In December the Chipstead Brownies and Rainbows visited the Lodge to sing Christmas songs. The residents and staff loved seeing the children and although initially some of the Rainbows were a little overawed by the setting, they quickly relaxed and sang beautifully. After the singing the children made a Christmas decoration to hang on the Lodge's Christmas tree before they were treated to a drink, mince pie and chocolate.

Winter Night Shelter 2017/18

We have just finished our Tuesday night/Wednesday morning 6 week period in the Orchard, helping the local Winter Night Shelter. This year we were busy with 6-9 guests every night including Christmas and New Year. As ever we are incredibly grateful for all the volunteers, especially those who gave up their Boxing Day night to help.

The Winter Night Shelter lasts 12 weeks over the winter. Over 20 local churches provide venues each night ending in March. For the rest of the year a drop in centre operates during the day in the centre of Redhill. Renewed Hope Trust is the amazing local charity that organises all of this. It is here that guests can get help on housing, health and finding work. A warm meal and companionship is also found at lunch time.

We will be looking for more volunteers next year so do let me know if you are interested in volunteering. Do volunteer here during the year if you feel you can help.

Mission Committee

The Committee meets three times a year and is responsible for allocating Parish funds to charities outside the Parish.

John Robertson has joined the committee this year and has taken over from Phil in supporting a Cambodian based charity, Agape. Claire and Greg Mills have made a real success taking over from Andrew Britton as the Christian Aid Coordinators and Sue Corrance updates the charity board in the church with all the positive feedback we get from the charities we support.

We also help young people financially if they are planning to travel and do charitable work overseas. Do let me know if you know of anyone who may need such help and contact me if you want any more information on the charities we support

Marriage Preparation

For 10 years we have offered Marriage Preparation Courses to all couples marrying at St Margaret's as well as a few couples from outside the Parish.

The course consists of a full day at Elmore based on the HTB Marriage Preparation course and this year we had 3 days involving 7 couples. There is always a feedback form and it is evident that the couples very much value a day when they can talk between themselves about very personal issues. There is a long take-up for the 2018 course with over three quarters of our couples booking a place.

Rev. John Wates

Marriage Course

In Spring 2017 we ran another successful Marriage Course in The Orchard for seven couples. This was led by Claire and Greg Mills, who attended the course at St. Margaret's themselves, and who proved to be excellent hosts and leaders. The large room in the Orchard was transformed into a romantic space where couples enjoyed candlelit dinner cooked and served to them by our superb team of helpers.

Held over 7 sessions the course, using excellent material produced from HTB, looked at various aspects of marriage and relationships. With no group work or sharing involved, and plenty of time for each couple to talk with one another about their relationship, the Marriage Course gave our couples the chance to discuss issues that often get ignored and to learn new things about one another, however long they had been together.

The 'date night' atmosphere and time to relax and spend 'marriage time' with one another was much appreciated and the course was enjoyed by all who attended. Once again, we received positive feedback from the couples who came and we are currently looking ahead with anticipation to our next Marriage Course.

Hospitality

What a wonderful team! The Hospitality/Hosting team is led by Janet Groves and is made up of 24 volunteers from the congregation, both men and women, young and old. Everybody is welcome to join us.

From January 2017 – January 2018 we hosted 29 events including:



Kingdom Come evenings, Depression courses, Marriage courses, Prayer Ministry courses, Thank-you evenings, Patronal festivals, Quiz nights, The Jacksons' leaving BBQ, Carols by candlelight and many more, not forgetting "Haggis!" for Burns night supper in January this year.

Our next very special event will be The Installation evening for our new Rector Susie Williams; these are always wonderful events to be able to be a part of. The Hospitality team is a very happy team continually gaining new members; it provides wonderful fellowship, companionship and great sociability among the group.

There are other groups who provide hospitality also such for as the 9am and 10.45am coffee ladies on Sundays, all those who cook for Messy church and the Maggie's Song team who provide all the refreshments for the ever increasing numbers who attend. We must also acknowledge the

Life Groups who are always immensely supportive in providing hospitality for the Marriage and Depressions courses throughout the year. The gift of Hospitality is an important ministry and one of our core values.

Parish Magazine

Arlene Donovan and Lorraine Fitzwater have continued successfully to produce the magazine monthly from the regular and one-off contributions, details of forthcoming events and a range of advertisements from local organisations, which Deborah Mathews coordinates. After Phil Jackson's departure, the leadership team rallied round to produce the 'Rector's letter' on a rota as the first article. We also have a different contributor from our congregation each month writing the 'Final Thought' to conclude the editorial content. David MacCallum continues to coordinate and proof-read and write regular articles, while Sally Bowes has educated us all with her 'Countryside Notes'.

Pat and Rupert Courtenay-Evans had to give up organising the distribution during the year, via our 20-25 kind local distributors, after many years of conscientious work, for which we are immensely grateful. Their place was taken by Roger and Ann Martin, as no other offers were received, making us even more grateful to them for allowing us to keep the magazine going. However, they too have had to relinquish this role and we are (as this report is written) looking for replacements to continue this important outreach to the community.

The Summer Fete



In our 12 years of holding the fete, there have only been two occasions when we haven't been looking at the sky wondering if we were going to get a soaking. Now there have been three. It couldn't have been a better day for sunshine and atmosphere.

Families brought along their picnic blankets and sat around on the grass together enjoying themselves.

A record number of people poured through the gate at 2pm and we raised £6,700 most of which is being used to update equipment in the Orchard and £1000 of that was donated to Welcare, a Redhill charity who support struggling young families. All the items of bric- a-brac, toys and books we didn't sell were collected by a charity called Emmaus who work with homeless people, so even after the fete was finished, your support continued to help others.

Thank you to everyone for supporting us in whatever way you did by donating prizes, delivering leaflets, selling draw tickets, allowing us to hang banners on your fences and stick signs in your gardens, running stalls and setting up and clearing away. It's amazing how by 7pm, everything is returned to normal ready for the next day and you wouldn't know anything had taken place. The date this year is Saturday 9th June. **The Fete Team**

Communication

We often review the way we share information to each other and to non-church members. We communicate through several media:

- The website – about 15% of the congregation currently use regularly.
- The weekly newsletter on our website – around 200 people receive emails drawing attention to the highlights, with a link.
- Notices on the screens between services.
- The Sunday pew sheet.
- The parish magazine.
- The website calendar
- Church family news slots during services.
- Our facebook page
- Church family group facebook page (ask Jenny for more information about this)
- Posters – which are also emailed to neighbouring churches for their notice boards.
- Parish flyer

We have also tried to make it easier for people to contact each other through publishing a church directory.

Fair Trade

Fair Trade have closed their local distribution depots, so we are no longer able to hold Fair Trade stands at St Margaret's. However, St Margaret's is still registered as a Fair Trade Church (the certificate hangs in the Parish Office). This obliges us to serve Fair Trade coffee and tea, which we do whenever we can at church events.

Special Collections

Charity	Amount
DEC Myanmar (Burma)	£1500.00
Welcare, Redhill (£1000 from fete, rest from Mission Giving)	£1800.00
Women of Purpose	£1320.00
Open Doors Syria	£800.00
Agape	£500.00

Bible Society	£500.00
Bishop's Lent Appeal Congregation	£344.75
Christian Aid	£500.00
Collections (Christmas 2016)	£904.84
Community Debt Advice	£500.00
Discet	£3500.00
Renewed Hope Trust	£500.00
Renewed Hope Trust - Quiz Night	£987.45
Renewed Hope Trust - Mugswell Harvest	£121.50
Zimbabwe Link	£2000.00
Soul Survivor (Youth Group)	£364.58
Tearfund:	£60.00
Mean Bean Challenge	£165.00
Online Donations Direct	£700.65
Special Collections	£127.19
Royal British Legion Tins	Unknown
10am Service	£73.10
Children's Society	£97.70

2017 Financial Review

As shown in the accounts (Volume 2 of this document), 2017 had a deficit of £8,208, made up of an increase in unrestricted funds of £1,627 and an decrease in restricted reserves of £10,275. This is a significant change from 2016 when a surplus of £39,352 was recorded. The primary reason for the reduction in the surplus was a decline in planned giving and the associated gift aid recoverable which together fell from £241,505 to £213,507 (note 2a), a decline of 12%. There was also sharply reduced income from weddings and funerals and large expenditure on buildings improvement and maintenance.

The figures focused on by most of the PCC are those shown in the left hand column (unrestricted general church funds) of the Statement of Financial Activities (analysed in more detail in note 2a) which show the costs of the day to day running of the church and the income received to meet those costs. It was these figures which formed the basis for the information included in the recent commitment packs. These show that unrestricted funds for 2017 had a surplus of £1,627 with overall expenditure of £251,373, representing an overall expenditure increase of 2.7%. While an increase in expense of this magnitude might be expected, it disguises a number of significant changes during the year.

There was a significant increase in building maintenance costs from £5,180 to £18,356 with the church path lighting (funded by fete income from 2016), and the new church boiler accounting for the bulk of spending. On the other hand we had a gap in employing a youth worker as well as losing our children's worker part way through 2017, the combined effect of which was to reduce 'cost of services category' by over £17,000. Parish share increased in 2017 by 2%, and will increase more rapidly in 2018 as a result of the decision by the PCC to share the good fortune of unexpectedly high income in 2016 with the Diocese.

At the end of 2017, unrestricted reserves were £119,935, which equates to 5.7 months expenditure, which is currently at the upper end of our recommended reserves guideline of 3 – 6 months. During 2018 the PCC hopes to recruit a replacement children's worker and continue to upgrade the church facilities, including the recent redecoration of the Orchard and work on the bell tower. On the basis of current giving levels being maintained in 2018 at 2017 levels the latest indication is that a full time children's worker would result in a material deficit being incurred for 2018.

Restricted funds have decreased by £10,275. Almost all of this is due to the PA Hall where booking income fell by 25%, and building maintenance costs increased from their already high level in 2016 as redecoration work was carried out on both the inside and outside of the building. There has been no material changes in any of the remaining restricted funds.