



*“Here to Serve:
Jesus, each other
and the community”*

**GLENEAGLES ANGLICAN CHURCH, WELLINGBOROUGH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2017**

Administrative Information

Gleneagles Anglican Church meets at Redwell Primary School, Barnwell Road, Wellingborough. It is part of the Diocese of Peterborough of the Church of England. The postal address is 20 Ribble Close, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 5XJ.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, Registered No. 1172631. PCC members who have served on the PCC from April 2017 to April 2018 are:

Vicar	Rev Melvyn Pereira	Chairman
Pioneer Curate	Rev Ali Middleton	
Churchwardens	Chris Gledhill	Vice Chairman
	Elizabeth Holbrook	Electoral Roll Officer (until Nov 2017)
Deanery Synod Rep	Helen Cracknell	Treasurer
Elected Members	Alex Benoy	
	Graham Earl	
	Heidi Ellson	
	Maria Seaman	
	Alex Virtue	
	Clive Wagner	(until July 2017)
	Liz Willis	
Other Officers not on the PCC	Readers	Phil Spriggs
	Lay Pastoral Ministers	Valerie Brown
		Sue Suter
	Licensed Evangelists	Jo Batch (until Sept 2017)
		Jackie Brooks-Cheesman
		Colin Suter
	PCC Secretary	Sue Suter
	Safeguarding Officer	Valerie Brown
	Stewardship Officer	Jeremy Cox

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a charity registered with the Charity Commission, Registered Charity No. 1172631. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities

Gleneagles PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, Rev Melvyn Pereira, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll figure for April 2018 is 119, compared to 135 last year. The main reason for the decrease is the removal of names of 16 students who have left to go to University over the past few years. Also removed are the Holland family as Lisa is about to be Ordained; the Batch family, Jo now works for Christ the King Church; very sadly, we also lost the lovely Margaret Hammond.

<u>Removed</u>		<u>Added</u>	
Students	15	Moved away	5
Ordinand	4	Do not attend	3
Job at church	2	Moved church	4
Passed away	1		
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TOTAL			18
	34		

Financial Review

GENERAL FUND (Unrestricted fund)

We started the year in a healthy situation with **£9,251** in the bank but ended the year in a less comfortable situation with **£1,290**. The reason for this was a marked increase in Parish Share in 2017 (£55,234 to £61,139) plus the need to purchase a new projector and laptop. The projector and laptop together cost **£915**. The increased expenditure was not matched by income. The PCC were informed about the situation from September onwards. Both accounts have been successfully audited by Peter McCarthy and he was happy with the accounts.

In summary, total monies received were **£73,053** and payments made out **£81,014** and a breakdown of the various headings for income and expenditure can be seen on the statement of accounts.

Parish Share (**£61,139**) was paid in full for 2017 and this is the largest expenditure for the church. The second largest cost this year is the school hall hire which was **£5,685** including the hire of a room at Redwell Leisure Centre for children during the Sunday service.

In addition **£4,714** has been given to Mission Partners including the money collected for Christian Aid and the Daylight Centre. Other spending includes literature for the Sunday Club groups plus stationery and equipment as well as items for the sound system amongst other things.

The main source of funds still comes from the congregation which has increased to **£49,185** by standing order and **£3,318** through gift aid envelopes in the offering basket this year. This gifted money allows us to recover tax paid on these donations. Occasionally we do have donations upon which we cannot claim the tax back. The finance team is more than happy to speak to people about ensuring we can claim gift aid back for every donation. There is a scheme where we can claim gift aid on donations which are less than £20 without any paperwork; this is an excellent means of giving. The donation can either be loose into the basket or in an envelope; the maximum allowed per envelope is £20.

As we look forward to 2018 our Parish Share has been increased to **£64,009** and the hire of the school hall and Leisure Centre may be increased after April. A copy of the budget for 2018 is

included with this report; we will only be able to meet this budget if our income significantly increases. The whole church received a report based on the 2018 figures and have been encouraged to pray about their giving for the next financial year.

BUILDING FUND (Restricted fund)

We are now in the sixth year of raising funds for the new Church Building. The land was bought 7 years ago; the costs incurred this year (**£24,021**) were primarily for fees paid to the architect for detailed drawings for the Tender process. Since November a Fundraiser has been appointed and this has cost **£4,080**.

We raised **£52,754** to fund this through Gift Aided donations and generous donations from a range of sources. Last year we brought forward **£25,277** and this year the end of year balance is **£54,010**.

Our thanks go to everyone who generously contributes to the church funds.

Helen Cracknell – Treasurer. On behalf of the Finance Team.

Statement of Accounts 2017

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total	
YEAR	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
Receipts						
Regular & Planned Giving	49185	47246	13556	12461	62741	59707
Collections	6040	3507	0	3090	6040	6597
Income tax recovered	14535	18350	6154	6349	20689	24699
Other Voluntary Receipts	114	5276	32174	21234	32288	26510
Activities for generating funds	278	2401	20	301	298	2702
Receipts from Church activities	2901	5258	0	0	2901	5258
Just Giving			850		850	0
TOTAL RECEIPTS	73053	82038	52754	43435	125807	125473
Payments						
Parish Share	61139	55234	0	0	61139	55234
Clergy & staffing costs	4149	3837	0	2836	4149	6673
Church Running expenses	5284	10920	603	53	5887	10973
Hire of hall	5685	5739	0	0	5685	5739
Mission Giving & Donations	4714	3085	0	0	4714	3085
New Building work		0	19140	58251	19140	58251
Fund raising costs	43	737	4278	216	4321	953
TOTAL PAYMENTS	81014	79553	24021	61356	105035	140909
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-7961	2485	28733	-17921	20772	-15436
Balance brought forward previous year	9251	6765	25277	43198	34528	49963
Balance carried forward to next year	1290	9250	54010	25277	55300	34527

BUDGET 2018

YEAR	Unrestricted Funds		Up to March 2018
	2017	Budget 2018	
Receipts			
Regular & Planned Giving	49185	57,000	13918
Collections	6040	7,096	3017
Income tax recovered	14535	17,329	2102
Other Voluntary Receipts	114	2,385	5510
Activities for generating funds	278	0	51
Receipts from Church activities	2901	0	224
Just Giving			
TOTAL RECEIPTS	73,053	83,810	24,822
Payments			
Parish Share	61139	64009	17127
Clergy & staffing costs	4149	4500	643
Church Running expenses	5284	4580	1644
Hire of hall	5685	6500	2470
Mission Giving & Donations	4714	4000	795
Fund raising costs	43	0	0
TOTAL PAYMENTS	81014	83589	22,679
Excess of Receipts over Payments	-7961	221	
Balance brought forward from 2017	9251	1290	
Balance carried forward to 2018	1290		

If there are specific questions on the above figures it would be useful if they could be sent before the Annual Meeting if possible.

Report on the work of the PCC

The members of the PCC are listed above. With Rev Pereira as Chairman, our Pioneer Curate and the Churchwardens automatically become members. The Standing Committee is available in an emergency if requested by Rev Pereira and its members in 2017 were Rev Pereira, Rev Ali Middleton, Helen Cracknell (Treasurer), Chris Gledhill and Elizabeth Holbrook (Churchwardens). Clive Wagner stood down from the PCC in July 2017 when the Wagners left as Ali began ordination training, leaving the PCC a little short of men! As Deanery Synod rep our Treasurer, Helen Cracknell, is also an automatic member of the PCC. Deanery Synod reps fulfil a three year term. Members of the PCC are registered with the Charity Commission as trustees and Gleneagles Anglican Church is now a registered charity no 1172631.

During 2017/18 the PCC met six times in addition to the APCM. At each meeting written reports are received by the PCC from all areas of the church's ministry, together with reports from Deanery Synod and Churches Together in Wellingborough. In addition, as usual, in November 2017 the PCC and church leaders met together at the Wesleyan Chapel in Bozeat for an Away Day, which is always a valuable day of discussion, prayer and worship that feeds into Gleneagles' Vision for the coming year.

In accordance with the agreement to time limit membership of PCC members, the current longest serving member, Liz Willis, has retired from the PCC this year. Members may remain on the PCC for up to 5 years and stand again after a one year wait.

It has been refreshing to have new members on the PCC over the past year, who have brought new insight to the discussions. All members of the PCC contribute in a constructive and prayerful way and I wish to put on record my thanks to all of them, past and present, who continue to carry out their roles with dedication, hard work and prayer and make my job such an enjoyable one.

Sue Suter - PCC Secretary

Vicar's Report - God is (still) building His Kingdom here.

Once again, as we look back on the past year, there is much for us to be thankful for that God has done amongst us. And most of what we give thanks for come on two legs. YOU, for example! Massive thanks are due to our former Churchwardens Phil and Jacqui who did a wonderful job over 12 years and to Chris and Elizabeth who took over from them last year, hit the ground running and haven't stopped. Chris, Elizabeth, our Curate Ali and I meet monthly now and this team is growing in strength and worth.

Our PCC has been another great source of strength and support, every member doing their part to ensure that church life and ministry is the best that it can be. It was great that we were able recently to add Rob Seaman and Jackie Brooks-Cheesman to the Ministry Leadership Team. Since its inception in 2014 this team has powerfully affected all of our hands-on ministry, with team members regularly speaking prophetically about the way forward for us and they continue to do so. Praise God that we have such depth of strength in leadership in our church – people of strong faith, deep commitment and compelled by the love of Christ to serve Jesus, each other and our communities.

Leadership has always been vitally important in church life and ministry and God surprised me when I was praying about the agenda for our PCC and Leaders Day Away in November when He said *"spend the last couple of hours on 'leadership in Gleneagles Church' and invite some to come who would not normally be there."* So I did that and was delighted that several potential new leaders came and participated. Some of those have since already taken on leadership roles, plus Jackie Brooks-Cheesman, Kirsten Jeffrey, Rob Seaman and Jeremy Bullock have all joined our preaching team. On top of this, others have also taken on leadership roles recently. It very much feels like God is adding strength to strength and getting us ready for more – and as we know, it is always the case that God's Got More!

I usually try to avoid naming names in my annual report as I am bound to miss someone – and it's sure to be you! My thanks to all the very many who serve whole heartedly to keep our church going who I haven't mentioned by name. We have 88 church members active in one way or another and I cannot put in words how very grateful I am to you and how much I give thanks to God for you. My prayer is always, *"Thank you God for your good and faithful servants..."* The phrase 'snow shovelling angels' comes to mind...you know who you are. THANK YOU.

I've been delighted in the way that Ali, Mark, Becky, Joe and Jenny have really settled well into Gleneagles. Ali, of course, plays such a massive role with her trademark bright enthusiasm and strong gifts and you will have noticed Mark greatly contributing too. We're probably at the stage where we can't imagine life without them.

All of our groups have continued to function well with so many, as mentioned above, giving sacrificially of themselves to run them. Enjoy reading about these in this report. I want to particularly mention two of these groups.

The Wellitots team have managed really well with demanding changes at Gleneagles Social Club that have seriously increased the workload. Wellitots continues to attract a large number of carers and kids from the community.

Secondly, thanks to Maria, Liz and Arleen for listening to God and coming up with the new women's evangelistic group – a great innovation that is working very well building new friendships, putting women in a place where they hear about Jesus in a positive environment.

Looking ahead into 2018 the words 'build' and 'building' are once again significant particularly in the following three ways.

Firstly, in 2017 we put some emphasis on preparing the ground of pioneer ministry led by Ali and her team. See Ali's report for more on this. We continue in the same vein into 2018 with our emphasis, our Vision 2018, expressed as '**Build Relationships**'. We arrived at this during our PCC and Leaders day away in November and have spent the earlier part of the year talking about building relationships into the community and evangelism. My hope and prayer is that we will all participate simply by talking to people – talk to our neighbours, work colleagues, anyone who we're in contact with and see where that leads.

We also want to build relationships amongst ourselves – church can be a lonely place, so let's talk to each other more. Let's get to know those who are new to the church. Let's get to know those who we have often seen in church over several years but who we haven't yet spoken to very much. We can't know everyone very well but let's build some strong, supportive relationships with each other so that *"By this everyone will know that you are Jesus' disciples – that you love one another."* John 13:35. A great way to build relationships in church is to join a homegroup. Our existing groups are running well with strong committed leaders. We want to encourage more church members to join a group and perhaps, to be able start a new group. Effective small groups are one of the ways to a stronger and more effective church.

Secondly, in recent months God has reminded me and others of what He spoke back in 2011: ***"Build my people and I will build the church."*** For me, God has emphasised those first three words, ***"Build my people"*** which mainly means build up individuals as Christians but also means add numerical strength to the church. I have come to realise that pretty much everything I do in church life should be contributing to building up the people of God. And if it isn't, I probably shouldn't be doing it. I try now to reflect on those three words continually so that I am focussing ministry on building God's people. You can help by thinking in the same way. And telling me if you think anything we're doing is not building God's people or if you feel that you yourself are not being helped to be built up in Christ.

Thirdly, there is of course, the church and community centre building that we continue to pray will soon become a reality. Chris Gledhill is putting a tremendous amount of work into this. See Chris' report for all the latest on the building. Our faith is in our faithful God who promised as mentioned above ***"I will build the church."*** Every time I have taken it back to God, sometimes with a considerable amount of frustration and impatience, God has said ***"Rest, relax and wait on God."***

God continues in HIS work of building something very special here and God is using you and me to do it.

God bless,

Melvyn

17 April 2018

Churchwardens' Report

We would like to thank Jacqui and Phil for their many years of faithful and humble service to the church and for handing over a very smooth running organisation. It has been easy to pick up the reins and we have enjoyed our first year in office. The official 'Fabric Report' which Chris presented to the PCC is as follows:

We can confirm that we have caused an inspection to be carried out of the Fabric of the Church and the articles belonging to it. This was a very swift job as we have no Building!

With reference to the articles belonging to the Church – these articles consist of the property we possess for the functioning of our services, these are repaired and renewed as required and costs borne by Church Funds at the oversight of the PCC. There are no outstanding items that need repair or renewal.

Chris Gledhill and Elizabeth Holbrook

Children's Ministry Report

Sunday Club and Creche

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15

What a difference a year makes !! Last year, we were lamenting the lack of children at church and now we have 20 under 14s who are an integral part of our church family. A huge thank you to the leaders and helpers who regularly minister to these children Sunday by Sunday. The wonderful Maria Seaman is now taking over the co-ordination of Sunday Club and we are exploring ways of helping the children to feel more included in our church services at the beginning of the service and in All Age Services.

WoWs

We have held two WoWs in school this year; the Christmas WoW was for the whole school whereas we concentrated on Key Stage 2 for Easter. We also held a WoW on Good Friday. Thanks go to the team who help to run these WoWs, some of whom do not attend Gleneagles Church.

I continue to be involved in school ministry, and this year I have been teaching the Children various songs from sources such as Dougie Doug Doug and Fischy Music. I also provide a listening ear for the staff and children, reading the children stories and intentionally hanging around the staff room at lunch time. We have been invited to run a 'moving up day' for the year 6 and to be part of their Values Day.

Recharge 11-14 yr olds

Six young people meet monthly at 18 Landseer Close for Bible study and food. We have been slowly working our way through Youth Alpha and are now studying the Beatitudes using the 9 beats material which encourages practical discipleship.

Rev Ali Middleton

Mission and Evangelism

Friday Ladies Evenings report from Maria –

‘The evenings have gone well with a good attendance and conversations. We always have a Christian talk which the ladies appreciate, and we have introduced a prayer/ quiet chat corner. We will introduce a prayer/ questions box from the next one. The ladies have really appreciated it and there have been some who are ready to make things for the sessions which is fantastic!’

Colin has been looking at ways to raise Gleneagles Church profile within the local community. As an experiment he has purchased some sweatshirts with the church logo and set up an account so that we can also order t-shirts etc. if we decide that we want to. Also, Colin is investigating ways to improve the Church Website.

The Mutual Support Group has met four times so far and people from the community are coming along. It is run by Amanda, Carolyn, and myself in the club. It provides a space for conversation and to offer support for those going through loss and bereavement. With a team from the community we are holding a ‘Death Café’ on 27th April in the Social Club. People from the community are invited to come along and discuss all things mortal. We are going to be using the discussion starters called Grave Talk which are published by the Church of England.

The listening group continue to attend the monthly quiz at Gleneagles Social Club and this is slowly bearing fruit in terms of relationships with other club members, with lots of cross team banter.

The Gleneagles Community Action Group has recently installed a Community Defibrillator and, with the help of the Community First Responders, provided the relevant training. We have done a few litter picks and are now turning our attention to the Royal Wedding and what else we can do in the community.

Pioneer Ministry

There has been a sermon series on Pioneer Ministry which has explored the stages of beginning, building, and sustaining a Fresh Expression of Church. We are currently moving into the loving service circle stage; serving as Jesus did, giving dignity and worth to people in our community. The listening Group are still exploring where God is working within our community and where he wants us to serve.

Rev Ali Middleton

Care Team

In reviewing the development of the Care Team ministry over the last year it has been notable how adaptable and responsive the team and wider congregation have been to the requests for pastoral support within the Gleneagles Anglican Church family. Within the context of our location and need to be responsive to emerging needs and circumstances over the course of the year, attention has been equally given to the call to be outward looking towards serving the undiscovered needs and sourcing knowledge of new ways to serve the local community through hearing from Christ the King’s Pastoral team and linking with Gleneagles Social Club.

In keeping with the cycle of life, the Care Team have come alongside families facing illness, loss and bereavement as well as the celebration of a new life. In late spring 2017 the emergence of significant illness for the Hammond family brought together the efforts of both the Care Team and members of the homegroups which the family were part of. This practical support and compassion exemplifies the call we all share ‘to love one another as I have loved you’.

Throughout the year I have regularly noticed or been made aware of examples of quiet ‘behind the scenes’ compassionate service and support being offered and received within the congregation.

Several members of the GAC family experienced bereavement over the course of the year; seeking to respond sensitively to this stimulated the development and launch of a mutual support group which has, to date, had strong community participation.

There has been a welcome arrival of new families and the addition to the Odendaal family with the safe birth of Samantha in February. This latter event allowed the Care Team and wider church family to demonstrate our care through providing practical support through meals while the family made the transition to new routines. That we can provide support in joyous occasions as well as sad ones is such an encouragement!

Over the course of the year the membership of the Care Team has been stable however one or two members have, for good reasons, recently decided to step back from the team so new members would be very welcome.

Carolyn Beck

Prayer

It is a wonderful privilege to be asked to lead this team! It’s still new but already several things are happening or are in the pipeline:

- Prayer requests are being sent out to the Prayer Chain – please send any prayer requests to me.
 - A weekly prayer is being posted on the church website.
 - A training session for the prayer team is being arranged to cover procedures, practices and safeguarding and prayer support for the team.
 - Prayer before the service is changing slightly to begin at 9.45 am and we will try to include a “prayer huddle” with the worship team before the service begins.
 - A request for the Prayer Ministry Team: Please wear your badges so that people know who to approach; we need to be visible!
- Coming up:
- Thy Kingdom Come week of prayer May 10th – 20th to include a prayer walk, prayer journal exercise and 24 hours of prayer.
 - We are looking at ways of developing and enriching ways of praying, not just for the prayer team, but for everyone. We can become so busy looking outward that we forget to look after ourselves and our own relationship with God, so we will be looking at ways to refresh and equip ourselves by drawing on some quiet time with Him. We will do this via taster sessions where we can “go deeper” in prayer; quiet days and retreats; mini prayer workshops in services; and designated Bible studies.
 - More focus on people coming up for prayer during or after the service.

With many thanks and prayers,

Jackie Brooks-Cheesman

Homegroups

Homegroups are a vital part of church life and are a very good way to develop friendships; to exercise our spiritual gifts in caring for, supporting and praying for each other; to grow as disciples of Christ and to receive much needed prayer and support. Our current groups and leaders are:

Monday ladies group – Pauline Ball with Sarah McSharry

Wednesday ladies group – June Pereira

Young adults group – Carl and Liz Willis

Sunday ecumenical group – Mark and Arleen Rowell

Monday evening group – Greg Cracknell

Wednesday evening group – David and Jennie Baker

Homegroup lite – Sarah McSharry

Virtual group – Ali Middleton

Discipleship group – Ali Middleton

There is great variety in the groups and they each follow their own programme using some great and creative resources which are often shared between groups.

We owe a great debt of thanks to all of the leaders who give of themselves ongoingly in order to enable group members to be as blessed as they possibly can be by being part of their group. Thanks also to group leaders as they add considerably to our capability to pastorally care for everyone in the church by having a pastoral concern for those in their group.

Rev Melvyn Pereira

Wellitots

2017 was a year in which we experienced growth in the form of new mums and childminders and the return of mums with new babies and childminders with new charges.

We had a change of venue within the Vicarage Farm Club as we moved into the bar area, as the Pre-school needed to use the hall all day five days a week. This has presented us with some new tasks and problems, as we have to move all the tables and chairs in the bar before we can set out the toys, and of course put them back where we found them when we have finished. Making the refreshments is made more difficult as we cannot enter the ground floor kitchen whilst the Preschool is in session, so we have to prepare the refreshments in the lounge, bringing all the tea-making equipment down from the first floor kitchen. After the refreshment break everything has to go back up to the kitchen to be washed up and put away.

We still have good times with the mums and childminders and have established a good rapport with many of them. We would like to thank Chris Gledhill and Melvyn for their help in the furniture rearrangements, and the VFCA for allowing us the use of their premises.

Anyone from the Church who can spare an hour or three on a Thursday afternoon will be very welcome to pop in to lend a hand and/or just drink coffee and chat with our guests.

Mary and Phil Spriggs

KFC / Ignite 2017 -2018

Leaders are: Ali Middleton, Chris Green, Sally Quincey, Lis Wells, Chloe Green and Ruth Gilbert. We meet on fortnightly Thursdays during term time, in the sports hall 6pm - 7:30pm, £2 per child per session. This year we have had an average attendance of 14 children.

There has been fun and games, with a bible base; the treasure hunt was enjoyed by all, racing to find the clues (pegs) before it got dark! James from NAYC returned for 2 sessions, balloon car racing (brilliant) and indoor iceless curling (fantastic).

The Nativity Carol Service gave us another opportunity to engage and witness to families.

Although we only have small numbers of children we have spent time getting to know them and have more in depth discussions.

Ruth Gilbert

Youth Work - Sunday evening youth group

Two years ago, we were preparing for a large group of older young people to leave school and move on to the next season of life. This left a smaller, whilst committed, core attending on a Sunday evening. Looking ahead, the numbers growing up through the church are spread more thinly across the year groups. It is worth the church considering the implications of this and opportunities there are for reaching and making disciples of children and young people.

Last summer, 8 young people attended the Soul Survivor Festival and whilst after this more young people left school & moved on from the group, the festival proved motivating for those who remained. Starting the year with just 4 attending, 4 more have become attached through their invitation, 3 of whom you could describe as 'interested, but not sure' as regards the Christian faith. This is hugely encouraging. Our programme has continued to have a mix of bible study, invited speakers, and socials. In the autumn we began some monthly worship and prayer evenings, which have enabled the group to continue to grow in encounter with God and the experience of the gifts of the Spirit. Towards Christmas, Steve & Alex Benoy were delighted to be joined by Mike & Lynette Odendaal in leading the group. More recently, the group enjoyed a joint residential at the Frontier Centre with the younger youth group, continuing to study in the weeks that followed material based on the Beatitudes.

Many in the group are around the age of 16. It feels like there is a settled core around which the Lord is drawing others towards Him.

Steve & Alex Benoy

Social Events

We haven't been very effective in this area in 2017. We have suffered from the lack of someone to lead it. Friendship is very important in church life so social events are important to give us opportunities to **build relationships** and develop our friendships, especially this year. Please pray for the right person to come along who will take the lead in this area and strengthen our social events calendar in order that we can get to know each other better and love each other more.

Rev Melvyn Pereira

Men's Ministry

We have had another enjoyable year. The monthly Man2Man meetings, held on the 2nd Saturday of the month 8am-9am, have proved an excellent source of encouragement and debate; please join us if you can. We continue to hold events, which have included meals together, golf, prayer breakfasts and of course, the football continues on a Friday evening at 8.00pm.

We would love to see some new faces; these events give us a great opportunity to share experiences, and get to know other people in the Church family. So if you can make an event, I am sure you will enjoy it!

PS: We are always looking to add people to our organising team (especially younger men!) please speak to us if you feel you would like to join the team.

Jem, Carl, Colin & Melvyn (Men's Team)

Worship Band

Once again, thanks to everyone who 'makes it all happen' on a Sunday morning, it's a privilege to serve with you all. A 'sung worship' time during the service was introduced last year, which either Rob or I lead. Special thanks to Clive who faithfully served as one of our drummers, and we welcomed Luke and Owen, now regularly drumming on the rota with Carl. Jane is taking a break at the moment, as also is John. Owing to my ill-health Christmas was somewhat different this year, but everyone gladly stepped up – and stepped in – to ensure there were soloists, a group of singers, and an accompanist (thank you, Steve!) for the Traditional Carol Service. A very useful Worship Training and PA Day was held earlier this year, initiated by Mike (Odendaal). We hope to establish a regular band practice session in the near future. To find out if serving in the band is for you please speak to me or email me at aspalmer12@talktalk.net

Alex Palmer

Gleneagles Friendship Group

The Friendship Group met during ten months of the year and in that time shared a variety of activities ranging from meeting at Gleneagles Social Club to share games and chat or craft afternoons through to visiting Garden Centres and Ten Pin Bowling, each afternoon ending with afternoon tea. We also visited The Triangular Lodge at Rushton which is, to say the least, intriguing in its design and its part in the history of this country.

There was an extra meeting arranged in December 2017 when 10 of us visited Rockingham Castle to experience the flavour of Christmas 1800+. The Castle was beautifully decorated and surprisingly welcoming considering the size of the building. Again, we shared a cream tea in the Castle café but, unfortunately, not seated at the very grand dinner table set with best silver and china that we had seen earlier.

I am very pleased to be able to say that the group numbers have grown during the past year and we have been able to welcome six new friends to our numbers. Unfortunately we have had to say "Goodbye" to one of our original members who passed away in September and two others have now moved to long term care. Our hope is that we will be able to welcome even more new friends to our group during the next year and that we will continue to grow in love and friendship.

Valerie Brown

Building Project

Another 12 months!!! But another good year of activity and progress.

Patrons – Patrons act as our ambassadors. By agreeing to be a Patron a person is thereby saying “I strongly believe in this project, I support it and I believe that you should too.” Having Patrons gives us access to their personal expertise as well to their community contacts. Patrons are able to introduce us to individuals / trusts who may be able to donate or support.

The very good news is that we now have the support of significant Patrons who are Christians and strongly believe that our church and community centre should be built as soon as possible.

Patron: David Laing – Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire

Vice Patrons: Bishop John Holbrook,
Rachel Mallows MBE - Deputy Lieutenant of Northamptonshire
Sir Ewan Harper

The Site – physically nothing has really changed – but we did hold our first Service when we held a Prayer Walk to the Site from Redwell School as part of the Pentecost celebrations.

Diocesan Support – very little to report apart from Bishops Donald, John and Archdeacon Richard continue to express support.

Press Releases – a quiet year, we keep feeding the Media people with information, but nothing has really hit the headlines.

Finances – the big news from this year has been the completion of the Tender Process – we decided we needed to get the price for the project properly updated. To do that we selected 5 companies, in conjunction with our Architect, and invited them to submit a price for the contract.

4 companies responded, and we had prices varying from £2.5m - £2.8m. This was a bit of a shock but when we looked at inflation and the time elapsed since our last formal pricing it was clear where the costs have come from.

Since those prices came in we have tasked our Architect to engage with the 2 companies producing the best prices and we have a construction price of £2,558,220 + £25,860 for fixtures and fittings making a project total of £2,584,080. We looked at trying to phase the project within the shell of the building but that did not give us any significant savings.

Towards the end of 2017 we engaged the services of Jimmy James of Minerva Fundraising to help us with the writing of Funding Applications. We have him for 1 day a week and he will be with us for approximately 12/18 months. This has been useful as it has sharpened up our processes and shown us how to prepare applications.

As a result, we have now got nearly 50 applications outstanding.

PayPal & eBay accounts – all reviews now complete & Jane & Gordon are back trading - over £2,589 raised so far.

The Giving Machine – good news - we are now up to £1,232 raised because of the online shopping activity of GAC congregation & friends.

Buy A Brick – still disappointing results – only netted £891 to date – had hoped for more given it is linked to social media.

Community Consultation – ongoing with Ali Middleton’s Pioneer Ministry. Crucial to prove the need for a building – because the Community wants one!! 2017 has seen a lot of activity where we have contacted over 25 community groups and discussed what we have on offer. The clear majority have expressed a real desire to want to use the building when it’s ready. Those who won’t use the building have been very helpful in critiquing our plans and making helpful suggestions.

Can I encourage you to look at the Building Project website - <http://www.gleneagleschurchbuildingfund.co.uk/> - I try to keep it live & relevant.

Next steps – 2018 will be a year of continuing to write applications and work with our Patrons to progress potential funding sources.

Thanks for your support & encouragement – along with your prayers.

Keep Praying, Keep Believing & Keep Supporting

Thanks to all

Chris Gledhill

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery has benefitted from the appointment of several new clergy. Relationships across the Deanery reflected in Deanery Synod are becoming stronger as the new clergy settle in. Rev Miranda, Rural Dean, is doing a good job of holding us all together and meetings have been interesting and fruitful.

Rev Melvyn Pereira

Churches Together in Wellingborough

Churches-Together-in-Wellingborough comprises 25 churches from the town and surrounding villages. Its representatives from Gleneagles are, currently, Alan Palmer (Chair), Alex Palmer, Rev Melvyn Pereira and Sarah McSharry.

CTIW has seen some strong progress in the past 12 months, prompted mainly by the ongoing Monday night prayer meetings at Nations’ in Oxford Street. These have been running for a year now and have brought a visible difference in the ministry of Churches-Together.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January saw increased attendances, and the United Service at St Mark’s on the Sunday evening was well received, and well attended considering the inclement weather. The Leaders’ Breakfast on the Saturday of that week welcomed Bishop Donald who spoke from Psalm 122 and inspired us to ‘go up to the house of the Lord’ – to gather for fellowship in the interests of unity.

The Good Friday Walk-of-Witness, followed by the service, saw a lower attendance this year, maybe as a result of the weather forecast. But our prayers were answered in the most remarkable way as the whole morning stayed dry; then, within minutes of the PA, instruments, etc. being

packed away, the rain came. A number of us stayed after the service in a dry space nearer to the Swansgate Centre, where we read through the Easter story from all four gospels.

During the Walk and in the town, tracts and 'One Friday' booklets were distributed, and members of the Gideon's organisation joined us and gave out around 200 New Testaments.

CTIW continues to support Christian Aid with house-to-house collections and other fund-raising that individual churches arrange. The Christian-Assembly-Team-4-Schools (which has operated now for over 20 years) continues to provide regular input into schools, and Street Pastors (now 5-years on from its introduction in Wellingborough) still patrol the town at weekends looking to help those in need in the mornings' early hours; the Prayer Pastors continue to provide strong support. Volunteers also visit the Isebrook hospital on CTIW's behalf on Sunday afternoons, and regular Sunday afternoon services continue at Rosewood Court.

In more recent times, a Roving Night Shelter has begun to operate in five different locations (church halls, etc.), providing food and accommodation for the homeless. This is a pilot project, instigated by the Homelessness Forum, that has been blessed with a good number of volunteers and has been welcomed by the clients. The intention is to have it up and running fully for next winter, and to operate every night through that period.

Finally, please be aware of the forthcoming Open Air event to be held on Bassetts' Park on Sunday 10th June 2018. Everyone is invited to gather from 1pm, bringing your own picnic lunch. Then, at 2pm a United Service will take place from the bandstand; guest speaker is Helen Cameron, Chair of the Northamptonshire district of the Methodist Church. We're hoping for a good number of participants and will include children's activities. Fuller details will be available soon.

I began by mentioning the CTIW Monday night prayer meetings, which are like the organisation's engine room, and I conclude by mentioning them again. We meet every Monday from 8pm. Everyone is welcome to come and pray. Please be encouraged to join us.

God bless you all,

Alan Palmer

Chairman, Churches Together in Wellingborough

To be approved by the PCC in April 2018

Signed:

Date: