



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH FOR THE YEAR 2017

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The Revd Prebendary Gilleen Craig, Vicar and Chairman
Approved by the St Mary Abbots Church Council on 21 March 2018

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

From January 2017, a new Scheme was established for "The Central Kensington Group Ministry" which enabled St Mary Abbots, Christ Church and St Philip to become independent Parochial Church Councils (PCC).

This is the Annual Report for St Mary Abbots PCC.

Overall responsibility for the affairs of St Mary Abbots PCC is exercised by the Vicar, the Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council,

The members of the St Mary Abbots PCC are:

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Clergy	The Revd Prebendary Gilleen Craig <i>Vicar & Chairman</i>	The Revd Jennifer Welsh <i>Associate Vicar until 23 April</i>
	The Revd Jonathan MacNeaney <i>Associate Vicar from 25 June</i>	The Revd Canon Stephen Fielding <i>Assistant Priest</i>
Churchwardens Deanery Synod Representatives	James Dunford Wood Otto Barrow Peter Darrell Max Croft Pippa Currey Eliza Low David Wilkinson	Hannah Stewart <i>Vice-Chairman until June</i> Thomas Williams) Nicholas Helm) Sally Bessada)
ELECTED MEMBERS:	John Elliott Andrew Freestone <i>Safeguarding Officer from 26 April</i> Nigel Grieve Anna McNally David Peerless Emma Porteous Martina Sadovska Laura Sylvester Kieron Whitehead <i>Hon. Treasurer PCC & Stewardship Secretary from 26 April</i>	Samantha Giles Alexandra Swann <i>until 26 April until 26 April</i>
CO-OPTED MEMBERS:	Nicola Doyle Sally Bessada <i>Head of Church School Hon. Electoral Roll Officer</i>	

The Church retains the following professionals:

Bankers	National Westminster Bank plc Royal Garden Branch, 55 Kensington High Street, London W8 5ZG
Solicitors	Winckworth Sherwood Solicitors Minerva House, 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB
Investment Managers	Charles Stanley & Co Ltd 25 Luke Street, London EC2A 4AR
Architect	Colin Kerr, BA BArch Dip Cons (ICCRUM) RIBA Thomas Ford & Partners, 177 Kirkdale, Sydenham, London SE26 4QH
Auditors	Carter Backer Winter 66 Prescott Street, London E1 8NN

Day to day management of the Church is delegated to the incumbent, The Revd Prebendary Gilleen Craig.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) consists of ex-officio, elected and co-opted members as detailed in the table above. Elected members are elected at the Annual Church Meeting in April. All the lay members are drawn from the congregation of St. Mary Abbots. Office holders and other members of the committee with delegated responsibilities are offered appropriate training.

The PCC delegates various matters of business to the Standing and Finance Committee which meets in particular to discuss and make decisions in relation to financial and legal matters, and whose remit also includes matters relating to staff and the Church Centre.

Risk Assessment

The St Mary Abbots Church Council has considered the major risks to which the Church may be subject, and appropriate systems have been put into place to manage and mitigate those risks.

Chairman's Report, including:**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE, AND PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

In the long history of St Mary Abbots 2017 was a highly significant year. For the first time since 1829 we no longer have any daughter or sister churches: with Christ Church Victoria Road and St Philip Earls Court Road becoming on 1 January independent parishes. We're on our own! This creation of three parishes where previously there had been one is something really worth celebrating, especially as it flies in the opposite direction of, alas, much of the Church of England, which is marked by parish amalgamations and groupings-together in reaction to falling numbers, clergy shortage and lack of funds to remunerate them. In fact the growth and maturity of our former sister churches, leading to the conviction that our joint parish structure, instead of being supportive and enabling, had become something of a burden and drag on further church development, is not even the full story of recent years – it is barely a decade since St George's Campden Hill won its independence: so over a 15 year span one parish has become four thriving separate parishes. If I leave any positive legacy when I retire later this year, this would be a good one, although of course it is not mine to claim. The growth to independence of all these sister churches has only been possible as a result of the goodwill and generosity, the time and financial commitment of all the people of St Mary Abbots – a point made with characteristic generosity at our Bishop at each successive Induction of the Vicars of each of these churches. Of course, this process could be read as my having presided over the greatest dismemberment of St Mary Abbots' parish in its history (we used to stretch from Kings Road Chelsea to the Harrow Road). Given the scale and complexity of all that we do at our beloved church I used to think that we needed a far larger geographical hinterland to support our ministry than the sorry rump now left us – but the energy and commitment of our congregation, many of whom lived beyond the parish boundary in the first place, has proved me mistaken. We have not completely said farewell to our dear sisters – together with Christ Church and St Philip we form the Central Kensington Group Ministry, and the three Incumbents must meet together to consider matters of mutual concern and interest at least four times a year, deciding whether there are any areas where we could usefully offer joint ministry or specific shared projects. I realize that all this parochial reorganisation makes so little difference to almost all members of our congregation that you probably haven't noticed any change at all – but I can assure you that for your key parish officers and admin staff (especially Susan Russell on whom this burden mostly fell) it is a significant reduction, the removal of an entire level of governance that took up much time and energy with little tangible benefit. Even last year we still had to prepare a final annual report and accounts for the old united parish, leading to an Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Byzantine complexity that brought delight to all who relish arcane procedure. All that lies in the past: we are now leaner, more focused, and able to concentrate on our particular ministry and witness.

At Easter we said farewell to our Associate Vicar Jenny Welsh. All at St Mary Abbots know what an exceptional ministry she gave us over four years, how many aspects of our life she touched and invigorated, the projects and ideas she initiated and developed – I think particularly of the series of meetings for older people and our support for RAHAB, supporting trafficked women. She left us to be made Vicar of St Mary the Boltons, Chelsea, where her ministry already demonstrates striking development. Very unobtrusively, her husband Revd Philip Welsh gave great support and help with our services. We are very grateful for all the ways in which they built up our life here. We were very fortunate indeed to have Fr Jonathan MacNeaney join us only after a gap of a few months. Already we are aware of the splendid contribution that he – and his wife Helen – are making to StMA; leading worship, preaching, expanding our IT outreach and effectiveness, in pastoral care and leading our Children's ministry.

Fr Stephen Fielding has continued to develop his Ministry to the High Street: as well as organising a second series of Living Advent Windows in the windows of shops, restaurants and institutions on and around the High Street, he initiated a series of six 'Wellbeing Breakfasts' where a celebrity speaker introduced his own special expertise in the context of Wellbeing – leading to lively debate and discussion.

In his first full year with us our Head Virger Simon Fitter has initiated a number of upgrades and improvements to our church building: enhanced CCTV camera coverage, improved public safety procedures, better internal signage. RBKC lay a completely new path across the eastern churchyard meaning that congregations can now gather decently around the new garth when ashes are being interred. The path sets off far better the carved stone inscription on the kerb around the Garth. Unfortunately, the year was marked by unsuccessful

attempts to appoint a part-time Assistant Virger – we hope that we have now managed to achieve this. The gaps have been more than filled by the unstinting voluntary help of Susan Lockhart and Fraser Roberts – and the church owes far more than it realises to Tracy Kam with her tireless daily cleaning and tidying.

One credit to Simon and to my PA, Sophie Gaselee, has been the record number of services and other events that we have hosted for outside organisations – mainly charities and schools - with many crammed into an exceptionally busy Advent. As well as useful fees this brings more and more people into St Mary Abbots – and who knows how many return sooner or later to find out what our Sunday worship is like?

Our worship continues to be enhanced by an enviably high standard of music, and the autumn saw two significant innovations: on one Sunday each month our professional quartet sings not at 11.15 Matins but at the 9.30 Eucharist, so that our largest congregation has the pleasure of hearing them, and we invite volunteer singers to share in the anthems and motets that enrich our worship. This has already brought in a number of new singers. On those Sundays one of our professional singers leads the music at Matins, exploring the neglected repertoire of solo church music. Secondly, at our monthly Family Eucharist we invite members of our school choir (who may not normally worship here) to sing the worship songs that they have performed as members of our school choir.

Adam Norton continues in his work as our Centre Manager: in addition to the continuing busy round of outside bookings he has overseen some significant enhancements, notably the renovation and repainting of the Hall windows, and redecoration of the kitchen and the disabled toilet.

In the course of the year we were saddened to bid an earthly farewell to dear friends who over the years had made an especial contribution to the life and work of St Mary Abbots – I single out Wendell Cadogan, Tony Rudd and Cecily Scott, who are all greatly missed.

Hannah Stewart and Jamie Dunford Wood, our Wardens, have for another year shouldered the burden of management, administration and decision-making in every aspect of our church and parish life which is far greater than should be expected of any volunteer with full time professional and family commitments. We are greatly in their debt.

I commend to you this Annual Report.

Your Vicar, Gilleen Craig

MISSION ACTION PLAN

ST MARY ABBOT PARISH CHURCH KENSINGTON

MISSION ACTION PLAN 2017-18

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST: CONFIDENT; COMPASSIONATE; CREATIVE

Aim	Action	Responsibility of:	Progress – at September 17	Assessment 21 March 2018
Build up StMA Identity	Promote new independent autonomous parish	PCC		Achieved
Sharing in our Local Ministry	Implement the New Group Ministry with mutual support, witness and outreach	Vicar & clergy	All three Group Vicars in place from September	In place
Develop engagement with local charities & organisations	Assess and revitalise Jenny's pastoral and community projects	Associate Vicar, Pastoral Committee	In progress	Continuing work
Complete the clergy team	Appointing a new Associate Vicar	Vicar & Wardens	Fr Jonathan Licensed in June	achieved
Concern beyond Kensington	Reassess annual support for national & international Charities & missions	Associate Vicar, Pastoral Committee		On-going
Extend the potential use of church building & facilities	Re-submit planning application for Phase 2 of masterplan	Standing & Finance & Fabric Committee	Drafts being considered	In progress
Complete potential of new Garth	Relaunch Appeal	S & Finance Committee	Waiting for RBKC Planning Approval	In abeyance
Improve safety of Churchyard	Lay path to access new Garth for Cremated remains	Fabric Committee & RBKC	Completed	Most successful
Essential upgrade	Relay and level pathways leading to and around church	Fabric Committee & RBKC	Completed	Completed
Complete Vestry Team	Refurbish Vestry WC & cloakroom	S&F & Fab Ctee & Virger	Scheduled for September 17	Completed
Develop Financial stability and long-term sustainability	Appointing a new Assistant Virger	Vicar & Wardens	Post Advertised in September 17	Appointed
	Reassess Common Fund Contribution	S & Finance Committee	Finalised in July 17	Re-assessed
	Set Reserves Policy	S & Finance Committee	In Progress	In progress
	Hold further stewardship campaign	S & Finance Committee	Planned for October 17	Held; maintained existing level of giving
	Develop non-worship use of church	S&F Committee; Virger & Sophie Gaselee	In 2017, largest ever number of outside bodies using church	Successful
	Encourage Legacies	S & Finance Committee	Planned for November 17	No response; different approach needed
Develop range of worship	Monthly Joint professional & voluntary choir at 9.30 Eucharist	Clergy & Director of Music	Launching in September 17	Highly successful
Consolidate Sunday morning children ministry	Find locations for and relaunch all 5 CoS Age-Groups	Clergy & CoS Team	In place from June 17	Achieved, reviewed in January, returned to 4 groups, review again in 6 months
Engage with working Community	Develop High Street Ministry	Fr Stephen Fielding	Well-being Breakfasts; living Advent Windows	Progress continues
Responsible Stewardship of our estate and maximisation of its financial support for our ministry and community-building	Adopt rolling programme of StMA Centre Reburishment and upgrade	S&F & Fabric Committee & Centre Manager	In Progress – hall windows refurbished & painted Aug 17	Positive progress
	Continue exploration of potential wholesale redevelopment of the Vicarage Gate Centre and Vicarage Site	Standing & Finance & Fabric Committee		In abeyance
	Continue exploration of relocation of the parish administration and meeting rooms to site adjacent to church at some future date	Standing & Finance & Fabric Committee		In abeyance
Stewardship of our heritage	Appoint a new Hon Archivist; assess Archive security etc	Wardens & PCC		In progress

WORSHIP STATISTICS 2018

Because we mustn't count each person more than once in one day or week, total numbers are less than the sum of all the services.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:					
Attending Sunday Services:					
8.00am Holy Eucharist	18	17	16	17	15
9.30am Family Eucharist:					
under 16	52	65	75	70	61
communicants	99	109	115	112	110
total worshippers	178	181	199	191	186
11.15am Choral Matins					
ordinary Sundays	49	56	60	59	58
major festivals	400	250	248	345	380
11.15am Choral Eucharist					
communicants	36	38	40	48	46
12.30pm Holy Eucharist					
communicants	14	11	17	16	16
6.30pm					
Evensong	49	32	34	47	39
Taizé	35	35	36	36	32
Communicants	15	10	14	16	14
All Sundays – total of all services:					
under 16	71	70	78	74	72
communicants	166	169	172	182	163
total worshippers	365	349	365	373	373
Weekday Services – Holy Eucharists					
Monday 1.05 'Sunday on Monday' Eucharist	11	11	12	12	11
Tuesday 11.30	6	6	7	6	7
Wednesday 7.30	6	6	6	6	7
Wednesday 2.00 Healing Eucharist	24	30	27	29	30
Thursday 9.30 School Eucharist					
under 16	165	140	145	143	139
communicants	67	54	52	52	51
total worshippers	219	183	180	185	181
Friday 7.30	4	4	5	4	5
Saturday 10.00	6	7	5	5	4
Home Communion & Other Services	10	8	8	10	4
Weekday Services: Daily Office					
Morning Prayer	5	5	3	4	3
Evening Prayer	7	7	5	6	6
Attending All Weekday Services:					
under 16	202	185	181	212	159
communicants	100	110	105	94	98
Including weddings, funerals, memorials and other special services					
total worshippers	419	485	465	455	384
Sundays & weekdays combined:					
under 16	273		259	286	231
communicants	266	276	275	286	261
total worshippers	784	828	827	828	756
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS:					
- receiving Easter Eve & Easter Day Communion	299	308	331	256	260
- attending Easter Eve & Easter Day Services	683	655	696	557	598
- receiving Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Communion	385	349	428	426	525
- attending Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services	1496	1669	1363	1491	1523
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:					
The Number of Persons Baptised					
under one year old	15	20	21	21	30
aged 1-12	12	7	14	15	4
aged 13 +	7	7	5	10	1
Total baptisms	34	34	40	46	35
The Number of Persons Confirmed	7	26	19	26	16
The Number of Weddings Solemnised	7	5	4	3	6
The Number of Renewals of Marriage Vows	1	0	0	0	0
The Number of Funerals held in church	12	14	6	7	6
The Number of Funerals taken in Cemeteries and Crematoria	1	3	7	7	1
The Number of Memorial Services held	4	2	1	7	3
The Number of Burials of Cremated Remains	3	2	1		

Electoral Roll Officer's Report**Sally Bessada**

(All figures as at 31 December 2017)

SMA ROLL MEMBERS	2017		2016		2015		2014		2013	
	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%	TOTAL	%
Women	254	57%	256	57%	255	57%	253	62%	231	62%
Men	189	43%	190	43%	189	43%	158	38%	142	38%
Total	443	100%	446	100%	444	100%	411	100%	373	100%

The Roll, originally made in 2013, has been continually updated again throughout this year adding new applicants and removing those we know no longer attend the church. The reduction in size of our parish boundary has meant that several of our more recent members of our congregation have had to wait to join our Roll.

Our Electoral Roll application form invites applicants to supply their year of birth, which enables us to further determine the demography of our members. Whilst most of those on the roll are aged between 40-50, the average age has fallen to 51, as sadly, again a number of our elder long time congregation members have died during this year.

The average distance travelled to church remains at 1.5 miles, and currently just under 200 of our roll live less than a mile from church.

In addition to those who joined the Roll during 2017 we added over 50 new adherents to our contacts database. We continue to monitor their attendance, and will encourage those who qualify to join our Roll. Also, with our very well attended Children on Sunday provision, on average, over 60 little people come each Sunday that are too young to qualify for the Electoral Roll membership!

Church Council Meetings**Emma Porteous**

In addition to the short formal meeting to elect officers immediately after the Annual Church Meeting, the Church Council met on five occasions in 2017.

Topics discussed and decisions made over the year included detailed discussions about the progress of the *Transforming St Mary Abbots* appeal. Plans around extending our outreach to the High Street and the increase in number of outside organisations using our church. We also spoke a lot about compliance and the introduction of the new GDPR regulations. We scrutinised and considered the church's financial position, with particular reference to the Common Fund payments that we make to the Diocese. A continuing topic for discussion and debate was the new nursery school that now holds the lease of the Old Mortuary building.

The Standing and Finance Committee met four times, and there was a dedicated meeting of stewardship and Finance Officers to prepare for the Stewardship campaign held in the autumn.

We are fortunate in having committed and experienced members of our Church Council and thank them for the vital contributions they make to the continuing life of St Mary Abbots.

Churchwardens' Report: Fabric and Ornaments***Hannah Stewart and Jamie Dunford Wood***

2017 has been another quiet year for St Mary Abbots from the perspective of the fabric of the church building, after the renovation works of previous years. The Appeal has been put on hold for now, pending the result of a new submission to the planners of the Mary Isa extension, and the appointment of a new incumbent following the planned retirement of the Vicar in September 2018. While we held a pre-planning meeting with RBKCs conservation officers in 2017, it is expected that the revised plans will be submitted in 2018.

Smaller works were undertaken throughout the year. Paving around the west end of the church and the school was levelled out by contractors from RBKC, whose responsibility this is, and they also tidied up the area outside the Old Mortuary. They also completed the path around the Garth which has considerably improved the overall look. As a result more people are accessing the east churchyard, which is now much more welcoming.

Inside the church, the CCTV system was renewed, and the vestry toilet renovated. Works were also undertaken to the Vestry lighting and Vicar's Parlour, and a Vestry alarm installed.

It was also the year of the Triennial Visitation, which was conducted by the Area Dean. Some minor recommendations were made, including the need for a new valuation of the church silver and ornaments, and that consideration should be given to digitising the Terrier.

Stewardship & Legacy Officer's Report***Emma Porteous***

We once again ran a stewardship campaign during the autumn, and although we did see an increase in donors of 16, we also unfortunately saw a number of donors dropping off. This meant that we ended the year with 155 regular giving donors. We also saw a number of our regular givers reassessing, and increasing their levels of giving.

Overall, the amount given through regular giving in the year is: £118.3k (including tax recoverable) which represents an increase on last year (2016: £92k). This was following last year's successful stewardship campaign.

It should be noted that voluntary income during the year decreased from 2016 levels, from £278k to £219.9k. This is mainly due a decrease in the restricted grants received in relation to our ambitious refurbishment plans.

The legacy income in 2017 reduced to a minimal amount. We recognise that we have work to do in this area and plan to do further work on developing our legacy income during 2018.

Safeguarding Officer's Report***Andrew Freestone***

In 2017 we continued to practise the standard process for clearances under our Safeguarding policy. Applicants complete an online disclosure application, meet with the Church Safeguarding Officer (CSO), or Diocese approved identity checkers, to verify their identification, and supply two references, relevant to the role for which they are applying. While no step is complicated, the overall process is proving sufficiently involved that some applicants simply do not complete the process. Significantly, the process has simply taken too long for some volunteers and we are endeavouring to speed this up to reduce the attrition rate.

Most of our clearances continue to be for our Children on Sunday volunteers. We also ask for clearance for any Pastoral Care team volunteers, teaching volunteers on the Bell Ringing team and Friday playgroup volunteers. The Door Duty volunteers complete a Confidential Declaration but do not have a DBS clearance.

Following advice from CCPAS, key roles within the Church, including the new Virger and the Vicar's personal assistant were not moved forward for DBS clearance in 2017; this will be reviewed in 2018.

Our cleared volunteer numbers are broadly flat year on year with the notable exception of a good growth in Chrysalis numbers:

Children on Sunday: Seniors 7; Juniors 4; Butterflies 15; Chrysalis 26; Caterpillars 12. Friday playgroup: 6. Pastoral Care team: 3. Bell-ringer Chaperones 3: Server Chaperone: 1.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 in relation to having due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

From an organizational standpoint in 2017, I took over the role from Samantha Giles and we have also moved all new applications onto the new parish reference. Martina Sadovska made a superb effort to ensure that those applications registered under the old parish were completed to the best extent possible.

Report on the Proceedings of the Kensington Deanery Synod

Eliza Low

The Deanery meetings are now generally open to all members of the 16 Kensington churches, under the heading 'Anglicans in Kensington'.

In March, at St Helen's, Luke Miller, the Archdeacon of London, talked about Praying for Seven. Part of the London Diocese's Capital Vision 2020 is that we be 'more creative in reaching new places with the Good News' and this initiative, Praying for Seven, invites us to pray for at least seven people and share with them the story of our faith.

In May, the meeting was at St John's, Landsdowne Crescent with the Ven Stephan Welch and Mary Spredbury from Area Finance. It was to be celebrated that as a deanery we contributed 100% of our Common Fund pledges for 2016, enabling mission and ministry throughout our communities, including the more challenging areas of the deanery.

In June, in the light of the tragedy of Grenfell Tower it was decided that the annual garden party should not take place (originally scheduled for the day after the fire). Many were already putting energy into trying to support efforts on the ground and it was suggested that we help at St Clement's and St James's to carry boxes of clothing out onto lorries for safe storage.

In September, at Christ Church, Victoria Road, Fr Joe Moffatt, Area Dean of Hampton, invited us to think about how to help people make the most of life events such as Births, Marriages and Funerals.

The meeting in November at St Barnabas, after the usual Deanery Business, considered how we can be compassionate in serving our communities. We heard from some pioneering church-based projects, including those who work with the elderly, those in debt, refugees and a project providing meals for children.

In December we attended a Christmas drinks party at Bickersteth House.

The St Mary Abbots Deanery Synod representatives are Otto Barrow, Max Croft, Pippa Currey, Peter Darrell, Eliza Low and David Wilkinson.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Hon. Treasurer's Report

David Peerless

2017 was the first year that St Mary Abbots operated as an independent Parish, following the establishment of separate parishes of St Philip's and Christ Church Kensington. The church's own finances remain stable, although a small deficit of £12.4k was incurred for the operation of the parish during the year.

The accounts are presented in the following pages and have once again been audited by Carter Backer Winter. I would also like to thank Susan Russell for her hard work throughout the year to maintain the church accounts.

The church's income is derived primarily from two sources: the generosity of parishioners through regular giving and donations at services, and rental for the use of church property, notably The St Mary Abbots Centre and 8 Hornton Place.

Following a successful Stewardship campaign in October 2016, income from regular giving increased by 28% to £96.6k in 2017. Regular giving, by direct debit or standing order, is a tax efficient way of donating to the church and enables the Officers to plan more effectively. Meanwhile, income from collections in church continue to decline, as members of the congregation and wider population carry less cash. Where possible, the church recovers Gift Aid from donations, and this amounted to £30.8k during the year.

Income generated from rental of the St Mary Abbots Centre, including car parking, rose by 0.4% to £217.1k, and 8 Hornton Place continues to generate £100k. Meanwhile, the church is proving to be an increasingly popular venue for external carol services in particular, and church facility income rose 33% to £14.4k.

The church also received a donation of £5k from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund to support Fr Stephen's High Street Ministry.

As a result of the break-up of the Parish, 2017 was the first year St Mary Abbots was expected to pay full Standard Parish Costs, £78.3k, which represented a 31.4% rise when compared to 2016; additional clergy costs were £55.3k. Meanwhile, the third component of Common Fund contributions, the Voluntary Mission Contribution, was reduced by 31% to £59.6k. Overall, the Common Fund Contribution was £193.2k, representing a 3% decline from £199.4k in 2016.

Voluntary Mission Contributions paid by St Mary Abbots over the last 16 years now amount to ~£1m. It is tremendously positive that St Mary Abbots has been able to support less well-off parishes in the Diocese to this degree, and for so long. However, as it is proving increasingly difficult for St Mary Abbots to balance its income and expenditure in the current economic environment, the Voluntary Mission Contribution will continue to be reviewed and further cuts are expected.

Overall, at the end of 2017 there was a net deficit in general funds of £12.4k, a number that will continue to be monitored closely, as this reflects the difference between general income and operating costs. It is best practice to maintain a surplus in general funds after allocation to a sinking fund, rather than a deficit.

Music costs of ordinary services rose 7.9% to £55.2k in 2017; the music benefits from approx. £5k in annual support from the Curtis Bequest, an endowed fund.

St Mary Abbots' Reserves Policy is to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to not less than six months of unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. Our financial position meets these requirements.

Many people work tirelessly to support the work of St Mary Abbots. It would be impossible to mention them all here, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank Susan Russell, Adam Norton, Simon Fitter, Susan Lockhart, Emma Porteous and Anna McNally for their support during the year.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, KENSINGTON

Charity Registration Number 1132235

Parish Reference: 1117

Charities supported in 2017

		£	£	£	£	£
		StMA	(a) at Services	Collections (b) Fundraising	Total 2017	Total 2016
A. From General Fund						
Grant – London Diocesan Fund		59,555	-	-	59,555	86,367
Grant/Alms		1,706	-	-	1,706	15
B. From Collections at Services						
Richard Chartres Fund for London	w/e 29.1.17	-	443	-	443	-
St Andrews Clinic for Children	Mothering Sunday	-	481	-	481	340
LDF - Lent Appeal	Easter services	-	1,114	-	1,114	1,257
Christian Aid	Sunday Collections	-	350	-	350	427
Christian Aid - Refugee Crisis	Patronal Festival	-	-	-	-	79
USPG	Patronal Festival	-	139	-	139	-
Busoga Trust	Harvest	-	556	-	556	739
Kensington Churches Relief Fund	w/e 18.6.17	-	873	-	873	-
The Royal British Legion	Remembrance Sunday	-	1,024	-	1,024	550
Children's Society	Christmas	-	1,105	-	1,105	1,410
Save the Children	Christmas	-	1,105	-	1,105	1,410
C. Charitable Fund-raising/Other						
Kensington Churches Relief Fund	Summer Fete entrance	-	-	1,292	1,292	-
Lent Appeal - other	cheques/Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	319
TOTAL		61,261	7,190	1,292	69,743	92,913

Collections and funds raised on behalf of other charities - not included in the annual Accounts.

2017

Christian Aid	Street Collections/walk	360	386
ACE Africa	Bradshaw memorial	922	-
Bishop of Kensington's Discretionary Fund	Confirmation	157	135
Bishop of Kensington's Discretionary Fund	Ordination	-	226
Lord Monson	Green funeral	289	-
MacMillan Nurses	Lenart memorial	258	-
TOTAL		1,986	747

2016

Help for Heroes	John Irish funeral	-	635
Arthritis Care / Victim Support	Brady funeral	-	160
Childreach International	Elsmore funeral	-	301.5
Christian Blandford	Elsmore funeral	-	826.5
Trinity Hospice	Hand funeral	-	417
Sentebale	SMA School	-	145
Bloodwise	Stubbs funeral	-	176
RAF Benevolent Fund	Haslam funeral	-	244
Sentebale	SMA /SP Schools	-	48
Christ Church Community Appeal	Thomas' School	-	760
St Mary's More Smiles	Wainwright funeral	-	770
TOTAL		-	4,483

REPORTS ON THE LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

Associate Vicar's Report

The Revd Jonathan MacNeaney

It has been a privilege to serve this community for the last eight months. It has felt remarkably easy to settle in, in no small part due to your welcome and hospitality. Additionally the excellent ministry of Jenny Welsh my predecessor has provided a firm footing.

St Mary Abbots does not skimp on religion and a good deal of my time is, quite properly, spent praying the daily office, celebrating the Eucharist and being available to those who have come to the church seeking counsel or prayer.

Additionally I have now come to appreciate why my previous colleague Fr Geoffrey often stated "At the heart of administration is ministry". It takes a good deal of hidden administration to support the Sunday and Midweek ministry of SMA.

In my interview I spoke of three areas of passion that I would want to engage with here at SMA.

Education, Electronic Communication and Social Justice.

Education:

In the autumn we ran two sessions on the future of the church in relation to the diocese and the national church. Judging from the numbers who attended the future is grim!

We ran a three week course later in the autumn focussing on Mark's gospel which we read dramatically in church and then explored. This was better attended ranging from 15-30 participants and was a spiritually moving and stimulating experience for those who came. We need to continue exploring how best to provide mid-week education.

Communication:

Hannah Stewart and I have been working alongside Chris Demetriad to upgrade the website. Our social media output is now more regular and we are exploring the best way to make use of our databases.

Social Justice:

I arrived a couple of weeks after the fire at Grenfell during which time the church community was a strong supportive force. We continue to support the survivors of Grenfell as noted in the pastoral report.

I have built upon the groundwork laid by Jenny Welsh in welcoming refugees and the PCC are considering at this time the possibility of community sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family.

Pastoral Care Team and Outreach

The Revd Jonathan MacNeaney

Hospitals and Homes:

In the eight months I have been here I have visited five local hospitals. In fact my first piece of ministry in the parish was responding to a call about a dying woman. The majority of these visits are to members of our

congregation, but not all, and I have been ably assisted by the chaplaincy teams at the hospitals.

We have continued our regular communion services at Beatrice Place and are now fully sharing this ministry with Christ Church Kensington. Primarily the services are led by Rev'd Mark O'Donoghue and Fr Stephen Fielding but I have also taken a few.

I have also been visiting members of our congregation who now live in residential homes, primarily Ellesmere House. Additionally we continue to take communion and visit housebound parishioners either during periods of illness or as a regular service. The number of people who would like visits and home communion is increasing and with the upcoming reduction in clergy numbers we are exploring ways for those licensed to distribute the sacrament to support this ministry.

Prayer:

We continue to offer intercession daily for those on our prayer list. In the wake of tragedy especially the fire at Grenfell tower we offered provision of stations in the church for prayer and the lighting of candles. It is rare during the day that there will not be someone praying at either of the candle stands.

I have received an increasing number of requests for confession and we offer this sacrament of reconciliation by appointment.

A school prayer group has just been revived. Parents will meet once a week after drop-off to pray for the school and our local community.

Outreach:

The Kensington and Chelsea Forum for Older Residents continue to hold events in the long room which we support and advertise.

Ffiona's restaurant, in grand tradition, provided lunch on Thanksgiving Day for those who would otherwise be eating alone. It was a delicious and splendid event for which we are most grateful.

On Ash Wednesday the clergy lost a couple of fingers to frostbite but did achieve the ashing of approximately 300 people: on their way to work; during their lunch break; or at the end of the day. This public display of the church's ministry which is carried out on the pavement outside the flower stall is an important and visible display of the life of the church in Kensington.

Under the oversight of Lucille Briance MBE we welcomed over 40 older people to SMA centre for lunch on Christmas day. Lifts to and from the event and presents were generously supplied by parishioners in conjunction with other local churches.

Each year we are generously supported by the Kensington Parochial Charities - 2017's theatre trip was postponed

and following the change of Associate Vicar it was not rescheduled before the year's end. The trip will now take place in March 2018 and in addition to the older members of our parish we have also been able to invite those residents of Grenfell Tower who have been resettled in the parish. There is likely to be a second trip planned for the autumn to catch us back up to the full complement.

A small number of our congregation have volunteered for the Grenfell listening project providing a confidential ear to those in need of support.

The Dalgarno food bank continues to see rising need month by month and we seek to strengthen our support for it. We have a large team of volunteers who transport the food from the church on Thursdays. In particular we want to thank Alice Bulkai who has capably co-ordinated our response but is now stepping back and to welcome Catherine Bedford who has stepped into the breach.

Our monthly Healing Eucharist continues to serve a great need within our community and attracts a diverse range of congregants. It is a focal point for our pastoral ministry and a sustaining and refreshing act of worship.

High Street Ministry

The Revd Canon Stephen Fielding

This note focuses on the two main initiatives that we have taken in 2017 to reach out to the High Street.

But first let me say that I have continued to have an active ministry within the worshipping life of the church, with its full round of services weekly and daily. And I would like to add that there is great generosity from parts of the High Street for the Community Carol Service in December, for our summer fete and Christmas bazaar.

Well-being Breakfasts:

The major new initiative in 2017 was the six 'well-being breakfasts' held in the Church from May to November. These were on the subjects of music, Christianity, politics, medicine, sport, and fashion and well-being. Each subject was addressed by a speaker, and we were very lucky to have a set of first class speakers, including the Bishop of Kensington, Gary Bell a psychiatrist, Simon Ward formerly of the British Fashion Council and Michael Gove, the Environment Secretary.

Well-being may be a hot topic - think mindfulness for example - but it is also fundamental to the Christian life; and looking at it from different angles shows there are many ways in which we can develop our resilience, whether as individuals, communities or as a society overall.

So when we learnt about the use of music in prisons, we noticed what a beneficial effect music could have on individual prisoners; but we also learnt that the effect of music to reduce reoffending is good for society as well as a reduced expense for the state. From the psychiatrist speaker we learnt how well-being matters because of the need to integrate different parts of our self: body mind and

spirit. We also learnt about identity, image and well-being: a highly paid footballer may retire, lose his identity, and go to pieces. We may dress, said our fashion speaker, to express our identity – to 'express' ourselves rather than to 'impress.'

Again, well-being may describe a kind of renewal. There can be physical renewal after food, sleep, water or exercise; and psychological renewal after stress. Understanding our mind traps, our cognitive distortions, our habitual ways of limiting ourselves, can be a source of well-being. At the social and political level, Michael Gove argued for the primacy of human relationships: in education seeing the relationship between pupil, teacher and parent; in prison, the welfare of the prisoner, the family relationship and the environment in the prison.

The Bishop of Kensington argued that we need to pay as much, perhaps more attention, to our spiritual well-being as we do to our physical well-being, with disciplines for our inner health or character. Spiritual well-being, he said, is the quality that enables us to do good things, it comes from within and is a matter of inner transformation. And it expresses itself best in community - we need each other.

Advent Windows - Making Space for Hope:

With the encouragement of many, we decided to hold our Advent Windows initiative for the second year in a row. We chose the theme of 'Making space for hope' because Kensington had been through a traumatic time in 2017, not least (but not only) with Grenfell Tower, and so we figured that this would send a positive message to lift our spirits, as well as providing ample scope for artistic creations. Advent was short in 2017, we had 15 displays and 5 new hosts for the Advent Windows.

It was wonderful to be joined by different people throughout the period of Advent as we visited a shop or gallery, school or private house, chemist or optician, sang a carol, said a prayer and enjoyed the hospitality of the host. It seemed to me that there were different kinds of engagement being experienced here. The church is engaging with its immediate surroundings – with the world out there where God is. Each host or venue is engaging with the subject matter, using thought and imagination; which means that we had a fine range of artistic representations which could be linked to Advent and the coming of Jesus. And then there is the engagement of the group of people who assemble to see the unveiling of the Advent window itself. In doing so we engage with each other, we have fruitful conversations and we create new friendships.

I think it is not an exaggeration or fanciful to say that in the process of doing the Advent windows we renew the narrative about ourselves at St Mary Abbots in a dynamic way. We only flourish as a Christian fellowship if we change and grow. And part of the story we will now tell about ourselves is that every year we consciously go out in the lead up to Christmas to engage with people at work in the immediate neighbourhood. And by that engagement we modify and enrich our own view of ourselves and hopefully of the community's view of the church.

Virger's and Vestry Report**Simon Fitter**

The search for an Assistant Virger following Nick Benn's departure proved to be a lengthy and involved one. However, James Alexander started in December much to my relief, though a Baptism of Fire for him with the myriad of Carol services and concerts. Welcome, James!

Christmas events themselves felt a lot safer this year, as each entrance had emergency lighting, exit notices and hi-viz jackets for the stewards, who had to be nominated for each event. An emergency announcement was read out with varying degrees of humour and accuracy by the clergy.

Our (only) church toilet received a much-needed makeover during the summer. It can now boast a solid floor, sinks with cold **and** hot taps, a tap for buckets, a draining shelf, cupboards and robust plumbing.

The turret to the Vicar's Parlour now has lighting that is motion-activated and has emergency back-up batteries, so is fully safe. The lighting has had to be replaced in the Choir Room which now also has emergency back-up. The heaters in both rooms have been repaired.

CCTV now covers all the church, thanks to a newly-installed system. The old system was condemned by the Police, its pictures not being adequate for court evidence. It now also covers the Vestry.

The Vestry itself has new locks on the doors and is now protected by an alarm system. This was required by Ecclesiastical Insurance as a result of a visit by their security advisor.

Never having experienced an Archdeacon's Visitation, I was unaware of the colossal amount of work it would involve. It was, however, a very useful experience and highlighted many areas needing revision of procedures and practices.

The Cloister Door, which had been wearing out over the years and was becoming dangerous, has just been repaired thanks to the generosity of Pier Casoreiro and his workforce. Thank you, Pier.

And I'd also like to thank everyone who helps the Virgers in so many ways; catering, cleaning, serving, sidespeopling, archiving, churchwatching, scribing and stitching. With especial thanks for the countless hours they spend each week to Susan Lockhart and Tracey Kam

Sidesmen & Readers**Nigel Grieve**

Though there have been a few new recruits since the year end, at the end of the year under review the panel of regularly active sidesmen had shrunk from 35 to 30, including some couples effectively operating as alternates. A few years ago the panel was nearer 50. During the year we said farewell to Samantha Johnson who had been a regular sidesman at the 9.30am for some years and also a fairly recent recruit Robert Clough.

Cecily Scott, a long standing sidesman and leader of the flower arrangers passed away after a long illness RIP.

Many continue to have restricted availability, due to business travel and at half term and holiday times when availability is critical. We are no longer able to restrict average duties to once a month and many of those available now cover 4 or more duties in a quarter. We are grateful to all sidesmen, particularly to those taking on extra duties, but notably once again Victoria Holland-Williams who, together with myself, serves both Matins and Evensong and Ivel Arnold who doubles for both Matins and 9.30am Eucharist. Cover for Evensong is now problematic, particularly at Choral Evensong. Though not eligible to become a sidesman formally, we are most grateful to Ran Xu who now regularly assists at Evening services and at Matins. Joan Howe continues to cover the 8.00am Communion, before helping to set up for the 9.30am service and taking a brush to the churchyard to clear leaves and litter.

For some years many have been undertaking the role of sidesman with only basic knowledge of the task and responsibilities. Hopefully all have now received and read the Sidesmen's Guidance Brochure. Particularly in the current climate it must be appreciated that the task includes not only routine matters, such as welcoming worshippers with appropriate books and papers, taking collection and clearing up. It is important that Sidesmen know how to deal with any disturbances or emergencies. Sidesmen, together with the Wardens, have legal authority to deal with any disturbance at "Divine Worship" though one is not expected to put oneself at risk.

One area which has been causing irritation and disturbance to the professional singers of late is filming or recording. It is not always evident to sidesmen from where they are situated and with very small cameras but note that no photography or recording of any kind is permitted during divine worship nor in rehearsal and if noticed the offender should be requested to desist.

Most sidesmen arrive in timely fashion for services but it is noted that not all are as prompt though many have to travel some distance. Sidesmen are reminded of the need to clear up after services and it is helpful, particularly after Matins if books and papers can be made ready for Evensong (rather than putting all books and papers away in the bookshelves as many already do. Cooperation in notifying known availability when requested continues to be key to timely preparation of rotas and would be appreciated as in some cases it is still necessary to send two reminders which delays the process.

Sidesmen are from time to time required for special services or concerts both on Sundays and weekdays and if sidesmen or other regular members of the congregation are able to help with these it would be appreciated. The Virger and Wardens would be pleased to hear from volunteers. Though I do not normally organise these I will be happy to pass names on.

Adult readers, some reading for the first time at Carol services and the like, continue to deliver readings to a good standard which is often commented on by visitors and others. There continue to be fine readings from some young people at Family Services and also at such as the Nine Lessons & Carols, no doubt some coached by clergy or parents, but others with seemingly natural talent.

I continue to coordinate Matins and Evensong reader rotas together with sidesmen for all Sunday services.

Appointed sidesmen who read usually do so at the same service but there are a number of sidesmen who do not wish to read and also some readers who are unable to take on sidesman duties.

Readers for 9.30am Eucharist service are appointed by Clergy. Children read at Family Eucharist. Those wishing to read at 9.30am should approach Clergy and for other Sunday services speak to me.

Vestments and Linen

Pat Wilson

"I really don't think there is anything to report about the vestments, I just continue to wash and mend!"

Meditation Group

Margaret Lane

The Christian Meditation group continues to meet in the Resurrection Chapel between 13:05 and 13:45 on a Wednesday. It offers a space for the practice of silent, communal, contemplative prayer in the Christian tradition. There is a simple format to each session and the emphasis is very much on the shared silence. However, some teaching is given where necessary to introduce the practice to newcomers and to support and encourage a daily practice.

Wednesday Evening House Group

Pat Wilson

The house group continues to meet on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 until 9pm at a venue near the church. Our meetings begin and end with a prayer. Our purpose is to enrich and deepen our faith by studying a wide range of Christian books together so we can share ideas, insights and interpretations and encourage one another on our spiritual journeys. We are at present studying 'The Grace of Waiting, learning patience and embracing its gifts', by Margaret Whipp. If you think you would like to join us please contact Pat Wilson via the vestry.

Children on Sundays

Martina Sadovska

(COS Coordinator and Children's Champion)

Activities for Children On Sunday groups are led by parent volunteers. Each group has a convenor who is responsible for organising the rota and supporting the leaders and helpers.

Teaching materials can be found either online or there is a hard copy in church. We have ceased using a Canadian online source and are now using Roots. Roots have extensive online resources as well as a hard copy magazine and are relevant to the Church of England calendar.

After Easter last year all five age groups were reintroduced. We now run two pre-school groups and three school age groups.

While both of our pre-school groups remain very busy and Butterflies (Reception - Year 2) has developed quickly into a well-attended and successful group, both Junior (Year 3+4) and Senior (Year 5+6) groups maintained a very low attendance. After reviewing our data it was decided to merge the Junior and Senior groups together, commencing February half term 2018. This also means combining the leaders for this group which will allow the new Junior group to meet more regularly (every Sunday except for Family Eucharists, the same as Butterflies) and should lead to increasing the attendance in this group.

Throughout the year there were a few exciting events for children, with the Summer Fete and Christmas Bazaar firmly remaining the most popular with children of SMA.

Father Jonathan has taken over the children ministry from Jenny and we continue to work together on improving the service for the youngest members of our congregation.

And finally, as always, we are so grateful to all the convenors and parents who work so hard to help ensure that this vital part of our ministry continues week by week.

Caterpillars

Lorena de la Torre and Simone Brigden

The Caterpillars group is aimed at the youngest members of the congregation and it's a lovely introduction to new parents as well to become part of our church and community. It has wonderful volunteers who every Sunday give their time and energy to run the group. The emphasis is on making new parents feel welcome to give their children a positive introduction to Sunday school.

The sessions normally start with parents introducing their children and this is followed by religious children's songs. Following is a short explanation of the theme and/or a religious story and a small prayer. The oldest children in the group are encouraged to sing and listen to the theme. Finally, there is a simple craft activity based on the theme of the day. Our volunteers have been wonderful at coming up with a range of craft ideas relating to the weekly themes. For the very young babies there is a matted area and a few age-appropriate toys.

The Caterpillar meetings are a safe and warm environment and a lovely way to introduce Sunday school and worship to the youngest members of our congregation. We are very fortunate and we feel grateful to all the parents who make this possible.

Chrysalis

Dania El-Kadi and Poppy Beckett

Chrysalis was as busy as ever, catering to an average of thirty children per week. Our programme aims to help develop their understanding of the Christian faith through prayer, storytelling, songs and crafts. Our children are mostly between the ages of two and five and a small group of volunteers delivers thematic sessions and activities, aligned with The Church's calendar. Messages are

delivered through age-appropriate tasks. We bring stories to life using children's books from the church library and we introduced new props this year through the regular use of puppets. We regularly meet with other groups to discuss new ideas and recruit new volunteers to run the groups. Additional ID checkers were approved by CCPAS to help us process volunteer applications faster.

Butterflies**Lucy Smerdova**

The Butterflies group has hugely benefited from becoming independent again. We have been occupying the Technology room in the School building since September and it has had a very positive impact on the group as a whole. There has been an obvious advantage in being separate from the older children, allowing the programme to be much more age and developmental stage appropriate.

The Butterflies have become a more amalgamated group of regular children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes that thrive on familiarity and structure.

We continue to develop and strengthen the children's faith through delivering the bible teachings using materials and resources from the Roots magazine. The sessions are usually structured around a weekly theme or religious celebration that we introduce through readings, debates and discussions and art or imaginative activities such as role play.

Sadly our "pool" of volunteers has now become a rather small "puddle" of very loyal and seasoned parents that continue to support the Children on Sunday provision. Our attempts to recruit new parent helpers were not very successful and this continues to result in volunteers having to step in on a much too frequent basis.

However our small workforce is rather brilliant, inspiring and motivating, delivering a memorable message on a regular basis.

Juniors**Christine Peerless**

Since separating from the Butterflies group earlier last year, the Juniors group has made steady progress.

We continued to apply "Roots" materials for the teaching and activities. The older children were encouraged to engage in discussions.

The parent-volunteers and clergy have been greatly supportive, and creative at times to deliver teaching sessions.

The attendance of the group in the last year has been fluctuating, and we believe the decision of joining the Juniors with the Seniors group early next year will help both the volunteers and improve children's learning.

Seniors**Naomi Pilling**

This year the seniors started up again after a break due to a lack of space in the school. Attendance has been rather patchy - lots of children this age have other demands on

their time and some are recruited to take part serving in church. We have, however, had some terrific sessions with deep and thoughtful discussion. It is always exciting to hear the fresh and enquiring views of this age group. A big thank you to all of the fabulous volunteers who have taken the group since we reformed. Going forward we have decided that we will merge with the juniors to keep the numbers up and provide a viable core.

Children on Sunday Door Rota**Simone Brigden**

We have a small but enthusiastic list of volunteers manning the entrance to the building whilst the Children On Sunday groups meet. Whoever is at the door ensures that no children leave without a grown-up and that nobody enters the school without having a reason to be there. Furthermore, they can direct new parents who are not sure where to go. The doorkeepers have been doing a fantastic job and are often prepared to step in last minute.

St Mary Abbots Playgroup**Laura Rutherford**

The SMA Parent and Toddler group welcomes both Church and local families within the Parish every Friday morning, during term time. We are in the process of encouraging new families to attend as numbers have dropped slightly. It is a fun and relaxed group, whereby the children have access to a number of toys and ride-ons in the Long room at the SMA centre, Vicarage Gate. We are very thankful to Adam at the SMA centre for being so accommodating. During the summer months we access Fr Gillean's garden, which is a wonderful space for all to enjoy. We recently had a re-vamp of the Toy cupboard and are looking into potentially purchasing some new exciting toys.

Laura Rutherford has taken over from Laura Sylvester in leading the group and we have plenty of mums who help on a regular basis. There is plenty of chat, tea, coffee, laughter and the occasional cake! We provide water and healthy snacks for the children.

Parishioner parents — if you would like to join us, please contact playgroup@stmaryabbotschurch.org or speak to Fr Gillean or Fr Jonathan. We meet at the Long Room, SMA Centre, Vicarage Gate from 9.45am to 11.15am on Friday mornings.

St Mary Abbots Guild of Bellringers**David Holdridge**

The bells of St Mary Abbots continue to ring out every Sunday morning before the 9:30am Family Eucharist, and before Evensong three times a month. Our weekly practices normally take place in the tower on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:15pm. We always welcome anyone who is interested in learning; just come up to the tower any Thursday, although it is worth checking in advance in case we have had to move the practice because of another event in the church.

The practices continue to be well attended, and it is pleasing that ringers moving to London often choose to join our band. This is a tribute to our reputation as a friendly team which welcomes new members and gives them opportunities to ring at an advanced level on ten bells, as well as developing those who wish to improve. In return,

we ask for a commitment to the band's wider activities, especially ringing for Sunday services.

Excellent use is being made of the six small training bells which we purchased in 2016, and the teaching session held every Thursday before the main practice is always well-attended. Some new ringers have begun to learn during the year, and newly-trained ringers are contributing to Sunday ringing at St Mary Abbots and elsewhere. The training bells have also been used by other ringing groups as part of organised training events, and are proving to be a very worthwhile investment.

The thrice-monthly ringing before Evensong normally takes the form of a "quarter-peal" – a set piece of ringing that lasts for about an hour without interruption. This gives ringers learning something new an opportunity to ring it for an extended period, and in 2017 several people successfully rang methods for the first time. We also rang some advanced methods which are not normally part of our repertoire, giving the more experienced ringers the chance to learn and ring something different.

We also have six set dates during the year for which we attempt full three-and-a-half-hour peals, mostly marking Church events such as Easter, Ascension Day and the Patronal Festival. In 2017, for the first time in several years, all six of these were successful, including some in the advanced methods we had been practising during the year.

We continue to be active socially as well as in the tower, and this year were delighted to welcome Fr Gilleen and Linda as guests at our bi-annual Dinner, held at "About Thyme" in Pimlico. Outside London, our 40th annual Ringing Week was held this year in Buxton, the first time we had visited that town, and was much enjoyed by the 35 or so members and friends who attended. Finally, it is perhaps worth noting that members of our band also organised bell-ringing trips to Dordrecht in the Netherlands, and to South Africa, and two others made it as far as Australia. Our influence spreads well beyond the M25!

Music **Mark Uglow, Director of Music**

It is pleasing to report a continuing high standard of performance at a variety of services and other events during the past year.

The highlights to which we have become accustomed have again been the performances of St John Passion and the Messiah. We are most grateful to the Rudd family for continuing to underwrite part of the costs of both concerts, without which they could not be presented. The performances of both works in 2017 were outstanding. Thanks must also be recorded again to those individuals who have helped tirelessly behind the scenes to promote and facilitate these performances, in particular David Wilkinson, Julia Swann, Susan Lockhart, Susan Russell and Simon Fitter. The promotion we continue to receive through the publications of DMG Media is most welcome and has undoubtedly contributed to some of the excellent turnouts to major services and concerts.

Highlights involving the professional establishment have included the Advent Procession, 9 lessons and carols, Ash Wednesday, the now familiar pattern of Holy Week Services, the Patronal Festival and All Souls. At Matins with Choral Eucharist in 2017 there were mass settings, exploring a wide range of styles and periods, by Morales, Handl, Lassus, Healey Willan, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Hassler, Lotti and, in the year of the 450th anniversary of his birth, Claudio Monteverdi.

In the autumn, we began an experiment of switching the core professional quartet once a month on Sundays from Matins to Eucharist, the idea being to encourage a wider group of volunteer singers. This has so far proved successful, with an encouraging if slow rise in such singers and also enabling a range of choral music to be performed appropriate to the liturgy. Whilst, strictly speaking, this report is not meant to comment on the following year, it is nonetheless encouraging that the experiment is being extended into 2018.

The chamber organ, purchased in 2013 but now so much part of music in worship at St Mary Abbots, has continued to be used frequently in services and has both widened considerably the range of music which is performed as well as enabling the choir to sing in the nave, acoustically much more desirable than in the chancel. The other aspect of the chamber organ is that it continues to highlight the fact that the main organ remains digital. The quality of the sound is not comparable and makes one realize what St Mary Abbots has been missing for so long, the sound of a good, main pipe organ.

The Director of Music wishes to record his thanks for their loyalty and support to the Associate Director of Music, Nick O'Neill, regular extra organist Edward Dean and to all the members of both the professional and voluntary choirs and acknowledges the contributions which each and everyone makes to the regular Sunday and other services. The musicians at St Mary Abbots acknowledge and pay tribute to the immense support and encouragement which they receive from the clergy and laity, as they use their talent and skill to enhance and adorn the liturgy.

Knitting Group

The SMA knitting group is jogging along slowly, now in its 9th year. We meet once a month in the evenings, guided by Pat Wilson in making anything from scarves to jumpers, gloves and hats. If you'd like to join us please call Eloise Twisk on 07740 444 528.

Eloise Twisk

St Mary Abbots Centre

2017 was another busy year at St Mary Abbots Centre, with many varied events, providing vital revenue for the running of St Mary Abbots Church.

Adam Norton

The Theatre continues to be a very popular rehearsal space for professional theatre. The year started with "The Girls" – a musical based on the popular film "Calendar Girls." We also continued our relationship with English National Opera who returned with a revival of Jonathan Miller's famous production of "Barber of Seville".

Chichester Festival Theatre rehearsed a brilliant, but little known play by Githa Sowerby called "The Stepmother", directed by Richard Eyre. Sir Richard always likes to rehearse here if he can! Opera Wales and a well-known "boy band" were among our other clients. We also enjoyed hearing the Cory Band running through their entry before the National Brass Band Finals at the Royal Albert Hall. They lost out to the Brighouse and Raistrick Band but they'll be back next year. Between all these bookings the theatre continues to provide examination space for the University of South Africa and other academic bodies.

The Long Room offers a meeting space for a wide variety of activities including our Parish Council meetings and Friday Playgroup. It continues to be a regular venue for noisy children's parties, and quieter business meetings, seminars etc. Other organisations meeting here last year included Warner Music, the Doll Club of Great Britain, and the Cherry Trees Resident's Association. On Thursday evenings Russell Actors continue to meet here. They are an exciting school for young people interested in theatre and anyone keen on performing should consider joining – www.russellactors.com. They appear to have a lot of fun!

As always, we are delighted to offer our premises to local charitable organisations, including the RBKC Refugees Welcome Committee, Campden Charities, the Library for Iranian Studies and the Kensington & Chelsea Forum for Older Residents. Once again we hosted the tea party for Hope and Homes for Children prior to their hugely popular Carol Concert. We were also pleased – and moved – to be able to host several drop-in sessions for those affected by the Grenfell Tower disaster, and at time of writing this work is still ongoing.

The Summer Fete on 17th June was an emotional day at the end of an extremely tough week, coming as it did just three days after the Grenfell tragedy. Serious consideration was given to cancelling the event, but it was decided to go ahead, and as a result the Vicarage Garden provided a small – if incredibly hot – oasis of calm at a very challenging time. The Christmas Bazaar returned to the Centre after a sabbatical year down at the Church. Our thanks go to Marsh & Parsons and to Knight Frank for once again sponsoring these events. Sadly, our Bonfire Night celebrations had to be called off at the last minute. It was discovered that the large plane tree in the Vicarage Garden was rotten inside, and large boughs could fall from it at any time! Permission has been granted to take the inevitable step of felling the tree, hopefully in time for next year's garden celebrations.

You can follow future activities on the St Mary Abbots Centre Facebook page – <http://www.facebook.com/StMaryAbbotsCentre>

St Mary Abbots School Nicola Doyle, Headteacher
2017 was another exciting year with many key achievements, particularly in sport.

The school reviewed its School Travel Plan and was awarded a 'Gold Outstanding' Award in the Transport for London STAR scheme for the FIFTH year running. The School was delighted to receive its SILVER Award for being a Healthy School in the Early Years.

The pupils achieved 1st place in the Kwik Cricket competition, 1st place in the Athletics competition and 3rd place in the Inter-schools annual Swimming Gala. A large number of pupils passed music exams with the Associated Board. The Attendance target of 96.5% was achieved for the SIXTH year in a row. Many pupils had art chosen by Leighton House for the annual summer exhibition & children's art work was on display at the RCA. 16 After-School Clubs were sustained throughout the year. Three pupils won the Road Safety calendar competition award. Their entries were printed in the RBK&C calendar for 2017 and the pupils met the mayor in January 2017. A group of 10 year 6 pupils won the Quad Athletics RBKC Championships and represented the borough at the London Youth games. Five boys and five girls had to compete in a 60m sprint, 800m run, howler throw and the standing long jump. During fierce competition the pupils in year 6 came 3rd in the borough for the Indoor Athletics Championships which included relay races over varying distances. Two teams of year 6 girls competed in the Borough Championships at Kwik Cricket. After meeting in the semi-final, we ended up as RBKC champions and also took home the bronze medal. The winners then had a chance to represent the borough at the London Youth Games in Acton. In one of those matches the team scored over 200 runs in 8 overs. After many trips to the Westway every Tuesday, the boys qualified for the playoffs where they were champions. The next stage of competition was across the entire borough where we finished a respectable 4th. During a multisport festival at the Westway, year 6 pupils finished in 2nd place in the mixed hockey finals and 2nd place in the handball final. Two extremely close competitions where the boys and girls worked together incredibly well as a team. In a mixed Kwik Cricket tournament at Battersea Park the three St Mary Abbots teams were extremely successful. One team returned as champions and the others made the semi-final.

At the end of the summer term we said farewell to Mrs Verjee, who had worked at the school as Nursery officer for 31 years. All in all, a very successful year with all staff working incredibly hard. A very committed and dedicated staff team.

Friends of St Mary Abbots Church Kensington

Nigel Grieve

As reported last year "the Friends" remained in stasis for much of the year with a consequent loss of annual members, though we did receive income from a legacy of £5,000 and donations of £2,040 during this period.

10 year / life membership and annual members renewing by standing orders, together with patrons and honorary members, now represent the core of the membership which stands at about 90 members.

The last quarter of the year saw something of a revival in activities with Founder Patron Steve Atack hosting a successful event in the church entitled "How do you solve a problem like Korea" with fellow Patron Lord Alton entertaining a sizeable audience of members and guests with his considerable expertise in this area, embellished by fine wine, sponsored by Guy and Andrew Heald, and a

Korean buffet prepared by Alison Steel. The event netted a sum which, with gift aid on donations, will amount to a further £2,000. This attracted much goodwill and optimism for the future.

There are plans for further events including an AGM after Easter when dates are available in the church calendar. It is anticipated that the resumption of activities will attract new and returning memberships and further donations.

After years of complaining about the extortionate bank charges suffered on our bank account with negligible interest on deposits, Natwest acknowledged an error in designation of our account and have refunded all bank charges since inception with interest resulting in a windfall this year of £1,608.

Funds in hand at the end of 2017 amounted to £46,190 specified under the constitution for grants to the PCC towards approved church development projects, not exclusively, but notably the provision of toilet facilities.

The Trustees urgently seek suitably qualified and enthusiastic volunteers to become actively involved as members of the small and overstretched team in the running of events and the resurrection of this worthy registered charity.

Parish Events**Hannah Stewart/Anna Bardsley**

Our 2018 carnival themed Summer Fete was held on an extremely hot Saturday in June...sadly just days after the Grenfell Tower disaster. The proceeds from the money on the gate were given to the Grenfell fund and several families who had been directly affected by the disaster were invited and brought by taxi to the event and looked after by parishoners. The event sponsored by Marsh and Parsons was great fun and well attended. We had a number of external stallholders as well as new and exciting activities for the children. The Dalgarno Food Bank were also represented and received significant interest and donations. Unsold cakes and home produce were taken to the local fire station at the end of the day. Thank you to all who contributed to making the event a success at a difficult time.



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST MARY ABBOTS, KENSINGTON****Opinion**

We have audited the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, (the 'church') for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the church's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the church in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Parochial Church Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is not appropriate; or
- the Parochial Church Council have not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Parochial Church Council is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the accounts is inconsistent in any material respect with the The Parochial Church Councils Report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of The Parochial Church Council

As explained more fully in the Statement of The Parochial Church Council's Responsibilities, The Parochial Church Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Parochial Church Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, The Parochial Church Council is responsible for assessing the church's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intend to liquidate the church or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to The Parochial Church Council, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the The Parochial Church Council those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the The Parochial Church Council as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Edward Tsui (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Carter Backer Winter LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

66 Prescot Street
London E1 8NN

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Carter Backer Winter LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

STATEMENT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Parochial Church Council is responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the church and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the church for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the church will continue in operation.

The Council is responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

		Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL	Further Details See Note10
	NOT ES	General £	Properties £	Funds	Funds £	2017 £	2016 £	
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS								
Voluntary income	2a	180,143	-	39,782	-	219,925	278,043	
Activities for generating funds	2b	346,180	-	3,662	-	349,842	368,704	
Investment Income	2c	21,080	-	21	6,125	27,226	26,477	
Church activities	2d	21,868	-	-	-	21,868	18,559	
Other income	2e	-	-	1,610	-	1,610	111,125	
TOTAL INCOME		569,271	-	45,075	6,125	620,471	802,908	
EXPENDITURE								
Costs of generating funds	3a	23,615	-	12,374	751	36,740	76,960	
Church activities	3b	512,968	-	19,960	5,532	538,460	666,811	
Other expenditure	3c	29,854	-	-	-	29,854	59,312	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		566,437	-	32,334	6,283	605,054	803,083	
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		2,834	-	12,741	(158)	15,417	(175)	
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS								
Other gains	9	-	-	-	-	-	586,955	
NET GAINS/ (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	5b	6,663	-	-	(791)	5872	76,096	
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		9,497	-	12,741	(949)	21,289	662,876	
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		9,497	-	12,741	(949)	21,289	662,876	
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1.1.17.		1,112,889	2,963,115	16,898	165,023	4,257,925	3,595,049	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31.12.17.		1,122,386	2,963,115	29,639	164,074	4,279,214	4,257,925	

The notes on pages B7 to B16 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 £	2016 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible fixed assets			
Properties	5a	2,963,115	2,963,115
Chamber Organ	5a	-	2,775
Investments (market value)	5b	842,397	543,050
		3,805,512	3,508,940
CURRENT ASSETS			
CBF Deposits		464,812	735,710
Debtors	7	39,849	28,255
Cash at bank and in hand		50,156	73,841
		554,817	837,806
LIABILITIES	8	(81,115)	(88,821)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		473,702	748,985
NET ASSETS		4,279,214	4,257,925
ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS BY FUND:			
	9		
Unrestricted		4,085,501	4,076,004
Restricted		29,639	16,898
Endowments		164,074	165,023
Total Funds		4,279,214	4,257,925

Approved and signed on behalf of the PCC on 21 March 2018 by:

The Revd Prebendary Gilleen Craig (Chairman)

Mr David Peerless (Hon. Treasurer)

The notes on pages B7 to B16 form part of these accounts.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017
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	2017	2016
	£	£
Net cash from operating activities	(28,334)	10,826
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	27,226	26,477
Proceeds from the sale of:		
Tangible fixed assets		
Tangible fixed investments	76,498	44,361
Purchase of:		
Tangible fixed assets for the use of the PCC		
Fixed asset investments	<u>(68,018)</u>	<u>(51,545)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	35,706	19,293
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	7,372	30,119
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	507,596	477,477
	<u>514,968</u>	<u>507,596</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	514,968	507,596
 Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) before investment gains		
Net income before investment gains at 31 December	15,417	(175)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	2,775	2,775
Dividends, interest and rent from investments	(27,226)	(26,477)
Decrease/ (increase) in debtors	(11,594)	3,963
(Decrease)/ increase in creditors	<u>(7,706)</u>	<u>30,740</u>
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(28,334)	10,826
 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in hand	50,156	73,841
Deposits	<u>464,812</u>	<u>433,755</u>
	<u>514,968</u>	<u>507,596</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****a. Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and applicable regulations.

St Mary Abbots meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). They include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the DCC would have been responsible in law if it had been a PCC during 2017. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those that are informal gatherings of church members.

b. Funds

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

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

Restricted Funds represent

- (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and
- (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment Funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used.

It has been ascertained that St Mary Abbots Church enjoys full entitlement to the Curtis Bequest Fund's assets and to the income that these assets generate. The reserves have been re-stated as at 31 December 2008 to include this endowment fund.

c. Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are accounted for gross.

Voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received.

Planned giving receivable is recognised only when received.

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

Grants and legacies are recognised when the PCC is legally entitled to the amount due.

Income from Investments

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All other income

All other income is recognised when it is receivable.

Gains and losses on Investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

d. Resources Expended

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

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish share is accounted for when paid. Any parish share unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the Balance Sheet. The PCC contributes to the Church of England Pension Builder Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the PCC in an independently administered fund.

e. Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2)(a) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishings held by the vicar and churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected. For inalienable property acquired prior to 1996 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore such assets are not valued in the accounts. Individual items acquired since have been capitalised in the accounts and depreciated over their economic life.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £5,000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Functional church properties have been included in the accounts at "deemed cost" which in the absence of reliable historical cost information represents the insured values of these properties on 1 January 2006 when they were included in the accounts. This deemed cost will not change unless improvement expenditure is incurred on these properties. Full details of these properties are included at Note 5a to the accounts.

Depreciation

Fixtures and fittings and office equipment over £5,000 are depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years

No depreciation is provided on freehold property as it is the PCC's policy to maintain these assets in a continual state of sound repair. The useful economic life of these assets is so long and residual values so high that any depreciation would not be material. These assets will be subject to annual impairment reviews. Provision will be made if there has been any permanent diminution in value.

Investments

Investments are stated at market value at 31 December.

f. Current Assets

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

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

2. INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2017 £	TOTAL 2016 £
<u>2a. Voluntary income</u>					
Planned giving: Gift Aid	86,458	-	-	86,458	68,480
Planned giving	10,178	-	-	10,178	6,791
Collections at services: Gift Aid	11,456	-	-	11,456	13,034
Collections at services	3,025	7,090	-	10,115	11,253
Sundry donations and appeals: Gift Aid	13,260	15,038	-	28,298	64,036
Sundry donations and appeals	11,344	7,420	-	18,764	32,476
Income tax recoverable	26,933	3,873	-	30,806	36,001
Grants	16,489	6,361	-	22,850	44,973
Legacies	1,000	-	-	1,000	1,000
	180,143	39,782	-	219,925	278,044
<u>2b. Activities for generating funds</u>					
Church hall lettings	217,091	-	-	217,091	216,074
Rents (Hornton Place)	100,800	-	-	100,800	106,249
Fund-raising Bazaar/Concerts	28,289	3,662	-	31,951	46,381
	346,180	3,662	-	349,842	368,704
<u>2c. Investment Income</u>					
Dividends and interest	21,080	21	6,125	27,226	26,477
	21,080	21	6,125	27,226	26,477
Fund-raising Church groups	2,434	-	-	2,434	3,575
Fees (Church and statutory)	19,434	-	-	19,434	14,984
	21,868	-	-	21,868	18,559
<u>2e. Other Income</u>					
7A Vicarage Gate back rent and contribution	-	-	-	-	107,498
Sundry	-	1,610	-	1,610	3,627
	-	1,610	-	1,610	111,125
TOTAL INCOME	569,271	45,075	6,125	620,471	802,909

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

3. EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2017 £	TOTAL 2016 £
<u>3a. Cost of generating funds</u>					
Stewardship costs	933	-	-	938	1,012
Fund-raising and Appeal costs	10,990	12,374	-	23,364	26,633
Support costs: administration	9,091	-	-	9,091	46,691
Investment Management Costs	2,596	-	751	3,347	2,623
	23,615	12,374	751	36,740	76,959
<u>3b. Church Activities</u>					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Overseas	-	2,290	-	2,290	3,547
Home & Voluntary Mission Contribution	61,262	6,192	-	67,454	90,113
Ministry: Diocesan Clergy Stipends	128,553	5,000	-	133,553	113,075
Clergy accommodation and expenses	48,113	-	-	48,113	36,616
Church running expenses	34,018	-	-	34,018	37,534
Church maintenance	17,329	1,230	-	18,559	40,758
Church major repairs and works	-	-	-	-	81,410
Services	7,547	429	-	7,976	8,682
Choir and music	49,724	-	5,500	55,224	49,070
Congregational Development	6,933	-	-	6,933	8,310
Church Hall repairs and maintenance	39,070	-	-	39,070	52,684
8 Horton Place	6,587	-	-	6,587	9,671
Salaries: Church	23,953	-	-	23,953	38,208
Hall	32,219	-	-	32,219	30,147
Staff Accommodation	11,048	-	-	11,048	12,499
Support Costs: administration	46,537	434	32	47,003	48,007
Sundry	75	4,385	-	4,460	6,482
	512,968	19,960	5,532	538,460	666,811
<u>3c. Other Expenditure</u>					
Auditors fees	7,920	-	-	7,920	9,424
Solicitors fees	-	-	-	-	5,475
Surveyors fees	-	-	-	-	22,100
Support costs: administration	21,934	-	-	21,934	22,313
	29,854	-	-	29,854	59,312
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	566,437	32,334	6,283	605,054	803,082

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

4. STAFF COSTS & PCC MEMBER PAYMENTS**4a. Wages**

	2017	2016
	£	£
Wages and salaries	103,386	146,809
Social security costs (net of HMRC Grant)	9,127	10,041
Pension costs	7,092	5,317
Agency fees	782	1,595
Total	120,387	163,762

In 2017 the PCC employed a Virger, Relief Virger, Vicar's PA, Parish Administrator, Hall Manager, and a Relief Hall Manager. None of the staff members earned the Act's minimum figure for declaration of £60,000 p.a.

4b. Payments to PCC/Church Council Members

Reimbursed expenses of £4,257 (£2016: £3,899) were paid to 3 (2016: 3) PCC/Church Council members.

4c. Donations by Members

No donations were made from a PCC/Church Council member or a related party with conditions which would, or might, require St Mary Abbots to alter significantly the nature of its existing activities if it were to accept the donation.

Donations without such conditions totalled £16,531 (2016: £14,971) was received from 21 PCC/Church Council members and/or their family members (2016: 17 members).

4c. Church of England Pension Builder Scheme

St Mary Abbots PCC (PB Classic) participates in the Pension Builder Scheme section of CWPF for lay staff. The Scheme is administered by the Church of England Pensions Board, which holds the assets of the schemes separately from those of the Employer and the other participating employers.

The Church Workers Pension Fund has a section known as the Defined Benefits Scheme, a deferred annuity section known as Pension Builder Classic and a cash balance section known as Pension Builder 2014.

Pension Builder Scheme

The Pension Builder Scheme of the Church Workers Pension Fund is made up of two sections, Pension Builder Classic and Pension Builder 2014, both of which are classed as defined benefit schemes.

Pension Builder Classic provides a pension for members for payment from retirement, accumulated from contributions paid and converted into a deferred annuity during employment based on terms set and reviewed by the Church of England Pensions Board from time to time. Bonuses may also be declared, depending upon the investment returns and other factors.

Pension Builder 2014 is a cash balance scheme that provides a lump sum that members use to provide benefits at retirement. Pension contributions are recorded in an account for each member. This account may have bonuses added by the Board before retirement. The bonuses depend on investment experience and other factors. There is no requirement for the Board to grant any bonuses. The account, plus any bonuses declared, is payable from members' Normal Pension Age.

There is no sub-division of assets between employers in each section of the Pension Builder Scheme.

The scheme is considered to be a multi-employer scheme as described in Section 28 of FRS 102. This is because it is not possible to attribute the Pension Builder Scheme's assets and liabilities to specific employers and that contributions are accounted for as if the Scheme were a defined contribution scheme. The pensions costs charged to the SoFA in the year are contributions payable.

A valuation of the scheme is carried out once every three years. The most recent scheme valuation completed was carried out as at 31 December 2013. This revealed, on the ongoing assumptions used, a surplus of £0.5m. There is no requirement for deficit payments at the current time.

Pension Builder 2014 will be valued in relation to the lump sum payable to members at normal pension age. There are no annual pension benefits. Pension Builder 2014 commenced in February 2014 so the first full valuation of that section will be carried out at the next CWPF valuation date, 31 December 2016.

St Mary Abbots contributes 8.5% of basic salary. The contributions for the year totalled £7,092 (2016 - £5,317) and there were no contributions outstanding at the year end.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

5. FIXED ASSETS

5a. Tangible fixed assets

		Properties £	Church Equipment £	Total £
ACTUAL/DEEMED COST	At 1 January 2017	2,963,115	41,050	3,004,165
	Revaluation gain on property	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2017	2,963,115	41,050	3,004,165
DEPRECIATION	At 1 January 2017	-	(38,275)	(38,275)
	Charge for the year	-	(2,775)	(2,775)
	At 31 December 2017	-	(41,050)	(41,050)
NET BOOK VALUE	At 31 December 2017	2,963,115	-	2,963,115
	At 31 December 2016	2,963,115	2,775	2,965,890

Church equipment includes

- a second-hand chamber organ purchased in November 2014 for £11,100, and has been fully depreciated.
- an Allen digital organ purchased in December 2000 for £29,950, has been fully depreciated. The cost and the depreciation charge are included respectively in the brought forward figures above.

Properties:

Functional church properties are included in the accounts at deemed cost based on the insured values at 1 January 2006 when they were first included in the accounts as follow:

	£
Church Hall & garages	1,752,214
Cottage - Curate	242,109
Cottage - Hall Manager	242,109
8 Hornton Place	441,683
7b Vicarage Gate	285,000
Total	2,963,115

The property freehold of 7b Vicarage Gate was included in St Mary Abbots Accounts in December 2016 at deemed cost of £285,000.

The buildings are used for the benefit of the PCC to carry out its mission and ministry in the Parish, and are not intended for sale. As functional buildings, their insurance valuations rather than market valuations have been included in the Accounts.

An annual impairment review, carried out by the Hall Manager, has identified certain maintenance and repair works that will be carried out as soon as practicable.

5b. Investment fixed assets

Listed Investments

	£		
Market value at 1 January 2017			543,050
Purchase at cost			369,974
Disposals – proceeds			(76,498)
Gain on disposal			(5,436)
Loss on Revaluation			11,308
Market Value at 31 December 2017			842,397
Cost at 31 December 2017			604,604
	UK Investments	Non-UK Investments	Total
	£	£	£
General	73,313		73,313
Clergy House	103,659	137,870	241,529
Mary Isa Trust (Renovation)	74,553	101,526	176,079
Enfranchisement Capital	69,834	150,406	220,240
Curtis Bequest	55,751	75,485	131,236
	377,110	465,288	842,397

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

6. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
	General	Properties	Funds	Funds	2017
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets for Church use	-	2,963,115	-	-	2,963,115
Investment Fixed Assets	711,161	-	-	131,236	842,397
Current Assets	491,827	-	30,152	32,838	554,817
Current Liabilities	(80,602)	-	(513)	-	(81,115)
Fund balance	1,122,386	2,963,115	29,639	164,074	4,279,214

7. DEBTORS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Income tax recoverable	7,706	9,582
Prepayment and accrued income	32,143	18,673
Total	39,849	28,255

8. LIABILITIES

	2017	2016
	£	£
Accruals	55,895	63,671
Creditors	25,220	25,150
Total	81,115	88,821

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

9. ALLOCATION OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Balance b/f 1.1.17. £	Net Income/ Expenses £	Gains on Revaluation of Fixed Assets £	Transfer to/ from other funds £	Balance c/f 31.12.17. £
<u>The Unrestricted Funds comprise</u>					
General					
General Fund	317,022	(12,433)	4,787	-	309,375
Designated					
Enfranchisement Capital	301,955	1,233	(2,428)	-	300,760
Bequests	19,467	1,056	-	-	20,523
Hall Maintenance	30,407	85	-	-	30,492
Christ Church Clergy Cottage	252,051	5,941	1,729	-	259,721
Mary Isa Trust (Renovation)	191,987	6,952	2,575	-	201,515
Total	1,112,889	2,834	6,663	-	1,122,386
Properties	2,963,115	-	-	-	2,963,115
<u>The Restricted Funds comprise</u>					
Appeal	13,695	15,944	-	-	29,639
Hassocks, Church Ornaments & Books	428	(428)	-	-	-
Organ Repair	2,775	(2,775)	-	-	-
Total	16,898	12,741	-	-	29,639
<u>The Endowment Funds comprise</u>					
The Curtis Bequest Fund	165,023	(158)	(791)	-	164,074
Total Funds	4,257,925	15,417	5,872	-	4,279,214

Enfranchisement Capital: In 2016, £301,955 was received in relation to the enfranchisement of 7A Vicarage Gate. The Church Council resolved to invest this income.

Appeal: In 2016, an appeal was launched to raise funds for the re-ordering of the church. The resubmission of a planning application for a North Extension is planned for 2018.

Hassocks, Church ornaments & Books: The balance of £428 was used to pay for 2 new church registers, and the fund was wound up.

The Curtis Bequest Fund is an endowment fund that was bequeathed to the Vicar and Churchwardens of St Mary Abbots Church in March 1965. The income from this Fund is used for the promotion and upkeep of the choir, the organ and church music. The London Diocesan Fund act as Custodian Trustees, and the capital value of £28,569 of this fund is kept as a permanent endowment. The remaining capital value of the fund is permitted to be expended, but only when the Vicar and Churchwardens, in exceptional circumstances, 'deem it necessary'.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

10. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

		Unrestricted		Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	TOTAL
		General	Properties	Funds	Funds	2016	2015
	NOTES	£	£		£	£	£
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS							
Voluntary income	2a	169,408	-	108,635	-	278,043	334,511
Activities for generating funds	2b	347,556	-	21,148	-	368,704	291,711
Investment Income	2c	21,144		13	5,320	26,477	26,236
Church activities	2d	18,202	-	357	-	18,559	21,208
Other income	2e	108,590	-	2,535	-	111,125	20,400
TOTAL INCOME		664,900	-	132,688	5,320	802,908	694,066
EXPENDITURE							
Costs of generating funds	3a	23,612	-	52,704	644	76,960	52,615
Church activities	3b	534,860	-	127,919	4,032	666,811	1,177,493
Other expenditure	3c	59,312	-	-	-	59,312	32,009
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		617,784	-	180,623	4,676	803,083	1,262,117
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		47,116	-	(47,935)	644	(175)	(568,051)
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS							
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	5a	-	285,000	-	-	285,000	
Other gains	9	301,955	-	-	-	301,955	-
NET GAINS/ (LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS	5b	52,981	-	-	23,115	76,096	(13,926)
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		402,052	285,000	(47,935)	23,759	662,876	(581,977)
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS	9	(51,651)	-	51,651	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		350,401	285,000	3,716	23,759	662,876	(581,977)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1.1.16.		762,488	2,678,115	13,182	141,264	3,595,049	4,177,026
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31.12.16.		1,112,889	2,963,115	16,898	165,023	4,257,925	3,595,049

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 (continued)

11. RELATED PARTIES

Following the re-organisation in the Central Kensington Group Ministry, a new Parish Scheme came into effect from January 2017. The PCC was no longer responsible for Christ Church and St Philip, as they had their own PCC.

12. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 December 2017 the church had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Expiry date within two to five years	7,754	11,200

13. SUPPORT COSTS

For St Mary Abbots Church, the support cost of administration which includes the salaries of the administrator, Vicar's PA and Director of Fundraising, has been apportioned to raising funds, charitable activities and governance.

