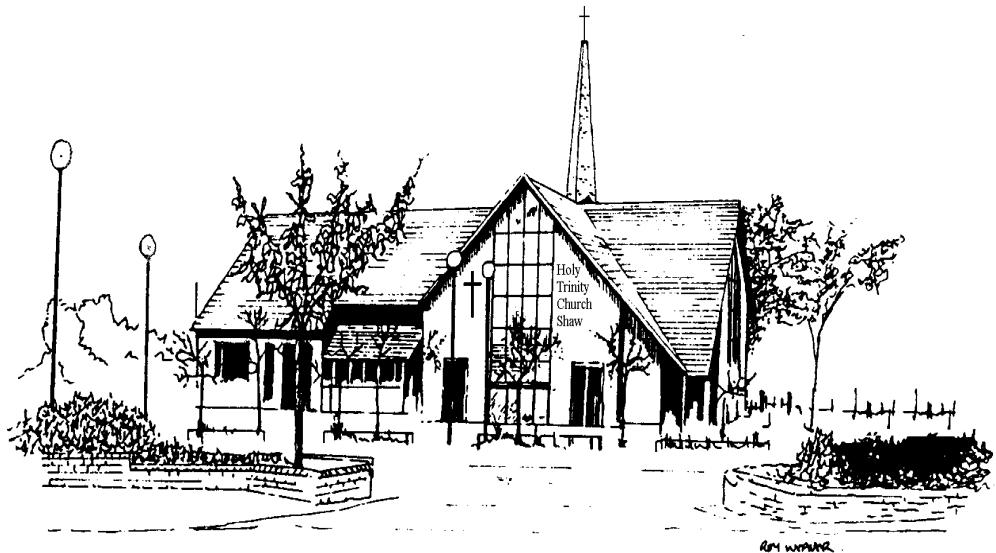


Holy Trinity Church, Shaw

in the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church
Partnership

**Annual Report
and Accounts for
the year to 31st December 2017**



Administrative Information

Holy Trinity Church, Shaw is one of four churches in the West Swindon and Lydiard Tregoze Church Partnership, which comprises Baptists, Methodists, URC and Church of England.

The address is

Holy Trinity Church, Shaw Village Centre, Ramleaze Drive, Swindon SN5 5PY

In accordance with the constitution of the Church Partnership, the government of the Church is the responsibility of the Church Committee.

Church Committee for 2016

Chair	Steve Kershaw
Church Wardens	Steve Kershaw & Sue Green
Treasurer	Sue Green
Secretary	vacancy
Other Elected Members	Janet Clark Ian Bryon Moira Webster
PC Representatives	Janet Clarke Sue Green Steve Kershaw

Structure, Governance and Management

The Church is a charity as part of the Church Partnership which is registered with the Charity Commission (1141341). The church committee members are elected as specified in the Church constitution.

Objectives and Activities

The aims and objectives of Holy Trinity Church, Shaw are to build a community of God's people to take the love of God in action and God's word to the community. It is also to provide a facility for groups serving the community in Shaw.

Achievements and Performance

Church Attendance

The average service attendance over 2017 was 33 adults and 8 children. These figures include Partnership Services and Messy Church. There was Morning Prayer held on Fridays in term time which had an average attendance of 4. The number of members is 27. There was only one homegroup meeting regularly with an average attendance of around 6.

Review of the Year

So another year has passed

Where to start, how about the youngest and this year we had two baptisms Joshua and a slightly older Carly. Two different situations and in respect of Joshua it was great to have yet another generation at the Church and especially for Val who has played at so many family events—you will have to ask her just which!! Then there was Carly. Carly was wonderful. First such a young girl making her own decision, no pressure from the family, it was just something she felt called to do. Listening to her during the service when asked why she was taking this step was inspiring. We have often said that our priority is youth, in addition many of us worry about the long term in respect of the Church's future. However when you see and listen to Carly it does give you hope.

Moving up in age we have the work which we do as a Church and within the Partnership with children and young people. There is Emerge, Messy Church and of course Schools work. These admittedly are really Partnership, but when you see who is involved they are “almost” ours! There was a great adaptation of the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by Emerge, Messy Church continues to bring in good numbers and this is still an area with great potential. Schools work has continued to flourish and more and more is asked by the schools of those people who are involved. As stated there are loads of people involved in these activities, such as Gayle, Sarah, Sue Mavis, Freda, Rebecca, Marie, Chris, Wendy, Janet, Ian and Mark—there are probably others and please forgive me for their omission.

There are no old people at Church, for all that society may call old because of their age I just see people who are young at heart and that is what counts most. Although we have no specific activities for them they are involved in so many activities I doubt they would have the time to take part!!

I feel I should also mention those from Angus Close, both carers and those being looked after. They may not be official members but they are without doubt part of our Church family. To me it is a joy to see them at our Church, how they obviously

enjoy many aspects of the Church service and Church life. For me it was an absolute joy to see the face of Pauline when she was able to interact with Joshua when he was just a couple of months old. All I would ask if you have the time, interact with the carers and talk to those they care for. We are all loved by God and we are all equal in his sight.

“WEG” team. Everyone in the team is important but particular thanks must go to Gayle, Ian, Mark and Janet. In fact much of what they prepare is now used in the services at our sister Churches. They are now putting in a lot of work around 2 areas “Holy Habits” and “Thy Kingdom Come”—expect to hear a lot about these in 2018. Committee (Sue, Ian, Moira, Janet and myself) try to keep things ticking over and that we adhere to all the rules and regulations and we are preparing for the quinquennial, which is due in May this year. But we have most, but not all our meetings with WEG and that actually makes things easier. We are also hoping to look at improving the kitchen during the year.

As you know our Church is used by the community a lot be that Acorns Pre school, Zumba or whatever. But what is good we have the Portuguese Church renting our property out regularly and there is talk that the Romanian Church is also considering. For me personally it is great that other Churches, with a different ethnic background are using or wanting to use our Church and at some time perhaps we should look to do a joint service—perhaps I should speak to WEG.

Clive’s vision for Shaw continues to be that of working with youth and children as we are so heavily evolved, be that by way of our premises or our membership. My final point for the year is simply to give thanks to God for all that I have just talked about, the work that you all do and the fact that we have Val, our organist back after being ill. There are ups and downs in all our lives but there is almost always a silver lining, we just need to look for it. But whatever we do in the future God will be with us on that journey

So once again we have punched above our weight considering just how small we are. I would encourage you, if you think you are able and it is appropriate to bring new people to Church. It would be great to see us grow and that others can come to know our God for I believe that each one of us does truly reflect God’s love and who can resist you lot with the backing of the Holy Spirit

God Bless

Steve Kershaw

Chair of Committee

Worship Report

The WEG group of Gayle, Ian, Janet, Sarah and Mark continue to meet once every quarter to look ahead and plan for the worship at Holy Trinity. We are regularly joined by Clive, and sometimes have a joint meeting with the Committee. This means we can help and support each other, share ideas, pray together, and look to see how we can serve God better, and grow the worship life and witness of HTS. For 2017, we put together a worship program using the Psalms. Each Sunday was allocated a Psalm, and an Old Testament/New Testament and Gospel reading that could be linked back to the Psalm; then there were the festivals to plan for as well, and we are especially grateful for the hard work that Gayle puts in working with our local schools at Easter, Remembrance, and Advent. This is crucial outreach, especially at Advent when our Nativity Workshop gives us the opportunity not only to share God's love and care with the children, but also with their families, in a non-threatening, gentle way.

As we did last year, some of WEG meet on a quarterly basis with the other worship leaders and planners across the four churches, under Clive's direction, to plan together, as well as exchange ideas and fellowship with each other. As a Partnership, this means we can support and help each other.

One of our biggest challenges is ensuring we have someone to lead worship each week, and someone authorised to lead communion at least once a month. Clive and Trevor continue to serve at HTS as often as they can; the rest of our services are led by folk from the Methodist circuit and from within our own Partnership. Mike Dilly and Jan and Gordon Partridge have given their time and skills to leading worship over many years at HTS and throughout the Partnership, but sadly they are now retired, and this has left us with big challenges, as there are less leaders available.

We are thankful for their dedicated service, and we continue to be thankful for the support and love shown by those who give their time and service in leading worship, and especially thank Clive and Trevor. We continue to look to our own members who are prepared to lead worship, all of whom have had training within the Partnership to help them do so. We also provide worship leadership support in the Partnership.

We also shared in a theme across the Partnership in October; and shared liturgies to be included in the services during Lent and Advent. For 2018, we have started using the "Roots" material to give structure to the Sunday services.

But all this planning and effort needs your prayers and support, that we continue to honour, praise, and worship God, and serve Him by serving each other, remembering to look outwards to our community and sharing His love with those around us. 2018 will be a challenging time, with less people to lead us: please pray for us, and encourage all those who lead! If you want to help out with the worship life at HTS, we would love to have you join us.

Mark Taylor

Building Report

We bought additional modular staging. The back firedoors were replaced, new lights were put in the worship area (with a longer manufacturer's warranty) and the boiler timer was replaced. The usual fire extinguisher and emergency lighting and boiler services happened and cleaning continued without any problems.

Sue Green

Message from Rev Capt Clive Deverell

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"

— Helen Keller

For the first time, I have written as your only stipendiary minister one single report. This report for all our Churches will seem strange to some.

Your report gives you a snapshot of what it means to belong to the community of your Church and fellowship. The many different ways in which we engage with one another and the wider community, as we seek to live out our faith in Christ Jesus. Some of which I have been part of others not.

I hope that this report provokes you to think more widely, I ask that because I am having to myself, for many of you this year has been difficult with illness and bereavements, taking a heavy toll in our Churches.

Yet as I reflect since I arrived over seven years ago, a massive amount of transformation has taken place across the partnership, to my mind the people of God have been set free to use their gifts. Every member Ministry through mutuality through and in our Baptism.

A few examples would be, this year alone we have a number of people pushing forward with vocational training "the cork is well and truly out of the bottle". We share our buildings with others, our work with younger people has expanded considerably, and we recognise the importance of the opportunities our buildings and our people bring however old they and we might be. Each and everyday the normal things continue and I am grateful for every piece of work from Pastoral to Leading worship that you do.

We have major challenges ahead but the words of Helen Keller above reminded me very much of the way we work in our Churches, look at how we host refreshments, tidy, clean and care for our buildings and people, as God's people we have stepped out of our own contexts, this working together has transformed our work with younger generations.

I want to say thank you to each and everyone of you for the support you give the Church you are a part of, the leadership roles you undertake, the prayers you make, all this for our communities sake.

So my thanks to our Wardens, Steve, Sue, Doreen, Jacqueline and Pat, our stewards and senior leaders inc Chris you have enabled me to continue to take wider roles. My thanks to those in formal roles, Mary, Jan , Trevor, Claire, Gayle, Rachel, Ian, David and Brenda.

At the beginning of February 2018 the formal separation of Lydiard Millicent from the parish and partnership will take place. It has been a time of sadness for us all. Mark Dowling agreed when appointed as partnership Chair agreed to see us through to this eventuality (the separation) with all it's pain and heartache. He has done so and now he has stepped down. In this report to each Church I can record my own personal thanks to him for his leadership and wisdom.

Our challenge will be to read this your report and reflect how many others helped deliver that event or activity, in our own context and wider. God is moving vocations are growing so from litter picking to Emerge, how can we join in and expand what they/we are doing as we join in God's Mission. Clive

"Four things to learn in life: To think clearly without hurry or confusion; To love everybody sincerely; To act in everything with the highest motives; To trust God unhesitatingly."

— Helen Keller

Across the Years

Junior Church

There has not been much demand this year but Janet & Marie have provided resources in case it is needed.

God.com

God.com has provided a Sunday morning group for young people twice a month, though it was generally only a couple attending each session. This was led by Angela and Mavis.

External Mission Links

BMS World Mission

SYFC

Filling Station

We have continued to make sandwiches around 3 times a year to be handed out to the homeless on a Thursday evening at a local town centre car park. We also donated the gifts from our Harvest service.

All 3 charities received £587 each as our 10% giving to further God's work locally, nationally & internationally.

Financial Review

Church giving was fairly stable. Rental income was up a bit. The Portuguese Seventh Day Adventist have continued to rent our building but Acorns weren't able to sustain their planned increased usage.

Our plan for all of our church giving to go in tithe, Partnership share and essential church related items happened, so the building costs including utilities etc came out of rental income.

We have plans to spend this extra income on the building but we do need to find someone with time to make things happen. Plans include replacing toilet light fittings and the kitchen units. We have a quinquennial due this year so this may mean some more building maintenance is needed. We still want to improve the worship area entrance and the general building appearance.

Summary of Accounts

	Forecast 2017	Actual 2017	Forecast 2018
General Fund Income			
Planned Giving plus tax	16,400	16,269	17,800
Collections etc	1,200	1,341	1,200
Rental	18,100	19,839	16,300
General Fund Outgo			
Partnership Share	15,000	15,000	15,500
Church outgo	2,500	2,672	2,600
Building outgo	21,800	17,236	23,200
Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,600)	2,541	(6,000)
General Fund at year end	23,620	29,774	23,818
Building Fund Income	0	0	0
Building Fund Outgo	0	0	0
Building Fund at year end	1,178	1,178	1,178

Reserves Policy

Budgets are set so as to allow for some unforeseen maintenance costs. The committee have agreed that it would not want the general fund to drop below £4500 and so would reduce the Partnership share if this were to happen.