



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

The Parish of Boxmoor Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

at St John's Church Hall, Boxmoor

Tuesday 4 April 2017 at 7.45 pm

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Please see the separate booklet for reports from our daughter churches, PCC committees and other church organisations. This will be displayed for inspection at the back of the churches and is available on the parish website at

www.stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk.



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETINGS

Tuesday 4 April 2017 at 7.45pm in St John's Hall

AGENDA

1. Prayers
2. Apologies for Absence

Meeting of Parishioners

3. Election of Churchwardens (To be entitled to vote one must either be on the revised Electoral Roll or live in the parish and appear on the register of local government electors). A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards until immediately before this meeting. There are two Churchwarden positions.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

4. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 12 April 2016 with Vicar's report for 2016. To accept these minutes and the Vicar's report as a true record of the last APCM.
5. Electoral Roll. To receive the updated electoral roll, which has been displayed in our three churches before this meeting.
6. Proceedings of the PCC. To receive a report on the proceedings of the PCC for 2016/2017.
7. Financial Affairs of the Parish. To receive a report on the financial affairs of the Parish.
8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts for 2016 and Budget for 2017. To receive the accounts for 2016 and budget for 2017.
9. Independent Examiner. To appoint an independent examiner for the PCC accounts for the coming year.
10. Fabric, Goods & Ornaments. To receive a report on the Fabric, Goods & Ornaments for 2016 from the Churchwardens.
11. Election of Lay Representatives to the Deanery Synod. (To be entitled to vote one's name must appear on the revised electoral roll). There are four vacant places. A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards until immediately before this meeting. Members of Deanery Synod are automatically members of the PCC.
12. Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC (To be entitled to vote one's name must appear on the revised electoral roll). There are five vacant places. A nomination for election form will be displayed on the church notice boards until immediately before this meeting.
13. Election of Sides Persons. To elect the sidesmen and sideswomen for the coming year as proposed on the list of nominations.

14. Deanery Synod. To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod.
15. Daughter Churches. To receive reports from our daughter churches of St Francis of Assisi and St Stephen.
16. Reports. To receive reports from PCC committees and other church groups, organisations and activities.
17. Vicar's Report. To receive a report from the Vicar.
18. Any Other Business. Any other legitimate APCM business.
19. Date of next APCM. The next APCM has been provisionally set for 7.45pm on Tuesday 10 April 2018 in St John's Hall.

Special meeting of the Parochial Church Council

(Only members of the incoming PCC are entitled to vote)

20. Election of Lay Vice Chair
21. Election of Deputy Church Wardens. Two places to fill.
22. Election of Honorary Treasurer
23. Election of Honorary Secretary
24. Appointment of Standing Committee (The Standing Committee consists of the Chairman, Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary all ex-officio, plus two others). Two places to fill.
25. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
26. Co-options to PCC (The incoming PCC is entitled to make up to three co-options, should they wish)
27. Any other legitimate PCC business
28. Date of next PCC meeting. Members of the incoming PCC may care to note that its first substantive meeting will be at 7.45pm on Tuesday 9 May in St John's Hall.

Philippa Graham
 Hon Secretary to the Parochial Church Council
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Diocese of St Albans – The Parish of Boxmoor

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL AT 7.45PM ON TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016

Chair: Revd Mike Macey, Vicar of Boxmoor

Present: Clergy 3, Parishioners 38

1. The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer.
Apologies for absence had been received from 18 parishioners: Pat Angell, Katherine Boyce, Garth & Jane Bridgwood, Margaret Gunning, Vanessa Hadley-Spencer, Mark Harbour, Marion Howard, Linden Innes-Hopkins, Andreas Ioannou, Nicholas King, Emma Macey, Annie & David Mitchell, Kim Morgan, Godfrey Rock, Gill Williams and Sheena Wilson.

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Election of Churchwardens

2. Two nominations had been received to fill the two Churchwarden posts. These were for Di Tovey, nominated by Marian Davies and seconded by Janet Packe, and for Lorraine Ioannou, nominated by Marian Davies and seconded by Janet Packe. Both were declared duly elected. Appreciation was expressed for the hard work done by the churchwardens, Marian Davies and Di Tovey, over the past year.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Last meeting held on 14 April 2015

3. The approval of the minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Tuesday 14 April 2015 were proposed by Chris Angell and seconded by Richard Lyne. They were approved by the meeting and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a true record.

The Electoral Roll

4. Ian Packe, Electoral Roll Officer, reported that there were 245 names on the revised electoral rolls for St John's, St Stephen's and St Francis' compared with 240 previously. Through the Chairman, the meeting thanked Ian Packe for all the work he had done on the electoral roll. The meeting received the new electoral roll unanimously.

Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council in 2014/15

5. The meeting received a report from the Honorary PCC Secretary, Richard Lyne, on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council during the year 2015/16. This report was also received unanimously.

Financial Reports

6. The Honorary PCC Treasurer, Chris Angell, drew attention to his written report and the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015. In doing so, he thanked all those who had assisted him during the year, not least Noel James who had agreed to be the Independent Examiner. Chris congratulated the parish on a very successful year of fundraising. The ideal was for the regular expenditure by the parish to be covered by the planned giving. Although fundraising had done very well, we had not yet reached this point and this was being addressed by the Stewardship campaign which would start shortly. The budget for this year in effect allowed something of a “holiday” from strenuous ad hoc fundraising. From the accounts, he drew attention to “Heat & Light” which had grown ever more expensive over the years and noted that new suppliers for our utilities had been found and we hoped for a consequential improvement in the future.
7. In questions on the accounts, Ian Williams asked how the parish was doing three months into the new financial year. Chris thought that there had been a very positive start to the year. Income from fees was better than expected and giving was holding up well. We were doing fine, but we needed an increase in planned giving from the Stewardship campaign. Ian noted that some £10,000 of the giving for this year had come from the Gift Day. We would not be able to repeat this exercise for say five years, so in effect we needed to spread the benefit of this money over the next five years. Chris agreed and drew attention to the figures on page 15 of the meeting booklet which showed, in effect, that some of the fundraising was indeed being amortised.
8. Chris Angell proposed and Jo Fisher seconded that the meeting should receive the report on the financial affairs of the parish, the accounts and the budget for 2016. This was agreed unanimously. Warm thanks were expressed for all Chris’ work on the parish finances.

Independent Examiner

9. Noel James confirmed that he was willing to continue as the Independent Examiner for the coming year and the meeting thanked him. Chris Angell proposed him for this role and this was seconded by Jo Fisher. This was agreed unanimously.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

10. The meeting received the churchwardens’ report on the fabric, goods and ornaments and thanked the churchwardens and deputy churchwardens warmly for all their work during the last year.

Election of Lay Representatives to the PCC

11. The Secretary explained that there were eight vacancies on the PCC to be filled this year. Five of these were for the usual three year terms, two were for two years to fill vacancies that were left unfilled last year, and one was to complete a term with one year remaining due to a resignation. Seven nominations had been received to fill these vacant posts. These were: Rosie Akeroyd, proposed by Julie Boyce and seconded by Trevor Boyce, Sue Brown, proposed by Janet Packe and seconded by Julie Boyce, Philippa Graham, proposed by Marian Davies and seconded by Di Tovey, Mark Harbour, proposed by Ian Williams and seconded by Gill Williams, Kim Morgan, proposed by Sheena Wilson and seconded by Lorraine Ioannou, Marion Roff, proposed by Julie Boyce and seconded by Trevor Boyce, and Rosie Shaw, proposed by Marion Cowe and seconded by Lorraine Ioannou. The Chairman declared these seven duly elected. He drew lots to determine which would have two rather than three years terms and these were Sue Brown and Marion Roff.

Sidespersons

12. Consideration was given to the list of sidespersons to be approved for this year. Mike Macey reported that Christine Wilson had asked to be taken off the list. It was explained that those involved in baptisms needed to be on the list. The meeting therefore approved the amended list of 55 persons

Deanery Synod

13. The report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod was received and thanks expressed to Jean Garner for compiling it. The Chair noted that the parish was well represented at the Deanery with himself as Assistant Rural Dean, Nicholas King as Deanery Lay Chair and Jean Garner as Deanery Secretary.

Daughter Churches

14. Reports from the churches of St Francis and St Stephen were received by the meeting. Carole Lewis thought that the reports showed how much our daughter churches were needed and offered something special. She urged everyone to worship at them from time to time.

Reports

15. The meeting received reports from PCC committees and other church groups, organisations and activities. Carole Lewis drew attention to sentence one of the seventh paragraph of the Communications Committee report, noting that the word "not" was missing. There was a discussion on how to increase the circulation of the parish magazine, which was now down to 260. Mike Macey said that the magazine was an essential communicating tool for the parish. It would be possible to make the magazine available on the parish website, but this might endanger the income from advertisers, although the list of church services and activities were already available on the website. It was agreed that the whole subject would be discussed at the Communications Committee.

16. Jean Garner observed that there were no reports from uniformed organisations associated with St John's. She thought that it would be good to know what they were up to, although they do contribute to the Parish Magazine. Mike Macey said that he would discuss this with them. Mike drew attention to the Music report, which had been tabled at the meeting as it was submitted too late for inclusion in the meeting booklets.

Mission Action Plan

17. Mike Macey said that the revised Mission Action Plan, with new goals, had been drawn up at the request of the Diocese. The PCC had accepted it. The Plan was approved unanimously by the meeting.

Vicar's Report

18. The Vicar drew attention to his written report which is appended to these minutes. At the request of Jean Garner, he read it out to the meeting.

Any Other Business

19. Marian Davies asked the Vicar to pass on a token of appreciation to his wife Emma for all she had done, and made possible for him to do, for the parish. Marion Cowe offered warm thanks to Father Ben for his contribution to the parish. Di Tovey thanked Alan Darvill for his sterling work as St John's Hall manager. He had kept the Hall in good shape and was always available. Mike Macey thanked Alan Munford for his work as Communications Committee chairman.

20. Alan Munford asked what steps the parish was going to take over the Bouncy Castle at the next Fun Day in the light of the tragic accident recently reported in the press. Mike Macey said that our Bouncy Castle had been firmly secured in the past and hoped it would be in the future.

21. The meeting closed at 8.39pm.

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2015

Given at the APCM 2016

“The years ahead look very exciting, and potentially challenging. But through prayer and hard work I am confident we can achieve all that we set out to do in the proclamation of the Gospel.” And so ended my report to the APCM last year. 2015 has indeed been a year of challenge, change, and opportunities – all of which we have been faced, trialed, and relished.

The year started with the news that we faced a £20,000 deficit if we were to achieve a break-even budget. Fundraising for this substantial amount started in earnest, kicked-off by the Parish Gift Day. Our letter drop to regular worshippers and residents surpassed our expectations. We hoped for £3000 but realistically expected £2000 to be given. In total £10,000 was given to the Church – roughly half from regular worshippers and half from residents who, although not regular worshippers, value the work of the Church in Boxmoor and wish to see this maintained. What a wonderful affirmation of what we are trying to do in our community, but also a challenge to ensure that we continue to do so. The year closed with a highly successful Christmas Tree Festival – successful both in financial terms and in terms of Mission: out-reach to the people of the Parish and in building and maintaining relationships with those in our community. And in between we held a very successful Christmas Fayre and Grand Draw (netting £6000), Cream Teas in the grounds of St John's, Talks and a Craft Fair, and our very popular Quiz evenings. Music at St John's also helped considerably by generously donating a significant amount of money to the Organ Appeal through sponsorship for the London Marathon, concerts, and recitals. As a result of all this, we not only met our target of £20,000, but we smashed it as you will see from the Treasurer's Report. My sincere thanks go to the Fundraising Committee for their vision and belief that our target was achievable and for all the hard work put in to enable this. But I should also like to thank everyone for their contribution to this financial success.

In Lent, 30 members of the congregation embarked on the Emmaus Nurture Course – a course designed to give (both to long-standing Christians and to those who are new to the faith) space and time to look at the fundamentals of the Christian faith and our response to them. The course, spanning 14 sessions, covered all aspects of belief from prayer and reading the Bible to the Doctrine of the Trinity, the Sacraments, and evangelism. The conversations were insightful and thought provoking and have helped many grow in their discipleship of our living and loving Lord. Two members of the course were Confirmed by Bishop Richard at the Confirmation Service held during Eastertide.

During 2015 the PCC, on behalf of the Parish, undertook to review and revise its Mission Action Plan (MAP): our vision and goals for being a growing, dynamic, and active community of believers in the service of Christ. The MAP, a living and active initiative, is part of a Diocesan-wide project *Living God's Love* aimed at *transforming communities, making new disciples, and going deeper into God*. A whole Parish consultation was conducted with many and varied views for our future being expressed. The PCC have adopted 5 aspirational goals of where they would like to see the Church in Boxmoor grow/change/engage in the next 5 years and will choose 5 specific goals each year to help realise these aspirations. These are set out in the papers contained with this Report.

In July the Parish welcomed the Reverend Benjamin Weitzmann as our newly ordained Deacon to serve as Assistant Curate. Fr Ben, who trained at St Stephen's House, Oxford, has immersed himself into Parish life and is contributing enormously to our corporate life, especially with regards to liturgy, and is proving to be a valuable colleague to me. It is expected that Fr Ben will be with us in Boxmoor for three years as he continues his training as an ordained minister in the Church of England. Ordination to the Priesthood is due in July 2016 and I ask for your prayers for Fr Ben as he prepares to make the transition from Deacon to Priest.

It is real blessing to be part of a Ministry Team such as we have in Boxmoor. Not only is it functional, but the quality and diversity of gifts exhibited in the Team complement each other for a greater experience of Worship and a deepening of our faith through the excellent sermons and homilies given. My sincere thanks to the Reverend Jeanette Gosney and Carole Lewis for their distinctive ministries, to our Lay Leaders of Worship and the contribution they make to leading worship at St Stephen's Church, to Sheena Wilson as she continues to study to be a Lay Reader, and to the plethora of retired or assistant clergy who have helped maintain the distinctive catholic style of worship offered at St Francis. My thanks and warmest wishes go to the Reverend Dr Alasdair Coles who generously helped at St Francis for many years but who now lives and ministers in Scotland following a move in the summer.

To coincide with Fr Ben's arrival we held our second annual Parish Fun Day and BBQ. This year we were fortunate to have a bouncy castle as well as other games. Families were in abundance and fun really was had. It is extremely pleasing to see the social side of the Parish in action not just at the Fun Day but also at the Harvest Lunch, OMO Lunches, Friendship Teas, Holiday @ Home, Saturday Coffee Mornings, and at Coffee after all our morning services. Thank you to all who make these social times possible and for all who cater for them.

So many people have contributed to our corporate life together over the past year. Whether you help with our Comms Team and our regular Newsletter and Magazine, or the Pastoral Committee and those who visit and give Communion to the sick or housebound; or are a flower arranger, sidesperson, reader, server, intercessor, choir member, Baptism helper, cleaner, gardener, card deliverer, caterer, chauffeur, Eucharistic Minister, Junior Church leader; I am most grateful for all that you do and for the way that you do it. May I take this opportunity to also thank a few people by name:

Linden – our Director of Music: thank you for the quality of music you provide each week, for your leadership of the choir, and for enabling our excellent working relationship.

Alison – our Administrator: thank you for 'running' the Office, being often the first port of call, and for organising me.

Marian and Di – our Churchwardens: thank you for sharing the legal responsibility for the Parish with me and for your wisdom and insight.

Richard and Chris – our PCC Secretary and Treasurer respectively: thank you for working tirelessly throughout the year to keep us on track both administratively and financially.

Emma and Sophie – my family: thank you for your love and support, and for enabling me to be the priest God is calling me to be in this place.

You might be interested to note that the following number of Pastoral Offices were conducted:

	2015		2014
Baptisms:	37	(2 adults)	31 (1 adult)
Weddings:	11	+ 3 Blessings	9
Funerals:	41	(18 at Crematoria)	34 (22 at Crematoria)
Interment of Ashes:	16	at St John's	11 at St John's

Numbers for these Offices are once again steadily improving and our contact and relationship with the families involved is a real area for growth and outreach. Despite these numbers, our Sunday attendance is lower than it ought to be. This I suspect is due, in part, to the Parking difficulties surrounding St John's. Parking remains a critical concern for the PCC and conversations are taking place with all interested parties. I hope to be able to report more on this next year.

I opened this report by quoting the end of last year's report. A lot has happened in the Parish over the last year thanks to a lot of hard work by so many. But none of our efforts would have been a success had they not been rooted and grounded in prayer. Every day, twice a day, the life of the Parish, and those who live or work within it, are prayed for; so too are the needy, the sick, the bereaved, and those who know not how to pray. We give thanks for God's goodness and faithfulness, for his mercy and forgiveness, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep, and we ask the Lord to bless our endeavours in all that we try to do here in his name. My continued prayer is that God, the Holy and undivided Trinity, will guide us as we journey together in loving service of our Risen and Ascended Saviour, Jesus Christ, and that he may bless our coming in and going out for evermore.

In Christ,



The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC): 2016 – 2017

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets in principle on the second Tuesday of every other month. Written minutes are kept of all PCC meetings and these are distributed to all PCC members and to any parishioner on the church electoral roll on request. A shortened version of the PCC minutes is published in the church magazine. Six ordinary PCC meetings were held during 2016 – 2017 with attendance by PCC members throughout averaging out at 66% (compared with 71% in 2015–2016 and 76% in 2014–2015). There were four meetings of the PCC Standing Committee.

As a matter of regular routine the PCC approved minutes of previous meetings and monitored progress on action points. It also ratified decisions taken by the Standing Committee through approval of its minutes. Reports from the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer have been received at each meeting. Progress on our Mission Action Plan has also been monitored and discussed. Particular attention has been paid to the needs of our daughter churches of St Francis and St Stephen and at the January meeting, with regards to the Mutual Flourishing of St Francis Church Hammerfield, the PCC agreed unanimously to support St Francis (not financially) for the next five years. (This would be reviewed before then in the event of a new incumbent). Reports have also been received at each meeting from our daughter churches of St Francis and St Stephen and the PCC committees: Communications, Finance, Fundraising, St John's Hall, Missions, MASJ, Pastoral, Social, Worship and Youth. Regular reports have been received in addition on the activities of the Deanery, Pray Hemel and Churches Together.

Other matters on the agenda included the updating and adoption of a new Parish Safeguarding Statement - the Safeguarding policy is currently being updated and should be ready to be ratified by the incoming PCC. The PCC also approved the application for a faculty for a memorial to our former Vicar, Canon Freeman, which has finally been granted. The dedication of the plaque will take place on the 7th May 2017.

A Transport Working Group was set up to investigate potential solutions to the growing parking problems at St John's and this matter will continue to be discussed at future PCC meetings.

The parish finances have been closely observed and the successful fundraising during the last year applauded. The PCC approved the annual accounts for 2016 and the budget for 2017 for presentation to the APCM.

Philippa Graham
PCC Honorary Secretary
March 2017

Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish 2016

The attached accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016 will be presented at the APCM. Both those for St John's and St Stephen's and those for St Francis' have been prepared in the format required by the Church Accounting Regulations 1997, detailing gross income and expenditure. A consolidated Parish Report and Accounts will then be prepared for submission to the Charity Commission. Budgets for 2017 are also provided.

My thanks go once again to David Mitchell for organising the envelope giving; to Janet Packe for dealing with St John's weekly and miscellaneous takings; to Philippa Graham for performing the role of Covenants secretary; to Alison Jackson for managing the office fees account; to Graham Liddle for managing St John's Hall bookings and income; to Trevor Boyce for collecting revenues from Magazine advertising; to Jean Garner for looking after the St Stephen's Hall and Church income and expenditure; to Jo Fisher for maintaining the accounts for St Francis; to Ian Packe for managing the bookings and takings at St Francis Church Hall and finally to Noel James for taking on the independent examination of both sets of final accounts.

2016 was a good year financially for the Parish with both sets of accounts recording a surplus of income over expenditure on General Funds and an improved position on most Restricted and Endowment Funds.

The turnaround at St Francis from a deficit of £1,694 in 2015 to a surplus of £11,173 in 2016 was driven by donations of £3,000 to restricted funds, unrealised gains on the investments in which the endowment fund is invested and increases in giving and hall letting receipts. Reduced church running and maintenance costs also contributed to the much improved position.

At St John's and St Stephen's the absence of special fundraising initiatives meant a reduction in overall income was recorded but all income areas apart from Fundraising showed an improvement over 2015. Fuller details are set out in the report of the Finance and Giving Committee and that of the Fundraising Committee. Expenditure was largely contained with significant savings evident in heat and light costs as a result of the retendered electricity contracts. As a result a £5,000 transfer was possible to the Fabric Fund, £4,000 to the St Stephen's Renovation Fund and £4,200 to the Organ Appeal enabling all scheduled loan repayments to be met.

Chris Angell
Honorary Treasurer
4th March 2017

Boxmoor P.C.C. Budget 2017				
General Fund				
ITEM	2015	2016	2017	
	Actual	Actual	Budget	
INCOME	£	£	£	
Missions	5,390	3,710	4,000	
Collections	18,810	19,775	19,000	
Planned Giving	60,950	67,431	71,000	
Donations	3,440	2,878	2,000	
Fees (net)	13,740	15,660	15,500	
Fundraising-Regular	7,970	8,218	9,500	Flower Festival in 2017
Fundraising-Special	14,240	731	5,000	
Coffee	1,000	1,321	1,000	
Magazine (net of printing costs)	1,300	1,221	1,000	
St Stephen's Hall	4,460	6,886	5,500	
St John's Hall (net of maintenance)	9,470	8,511	8,000	
TOTAL	140,770	136,342	141,500	

EXPENDITURE				
Parish Share	75,570	75,930	78,000	
Missions	5,280	4,135	4,700	
Vicar	1,860	2,205	2,500	
Curate's house (net of Rolph Bequest)	4,050	4,235	4,600	
Curate's Expenses	470	1,202	1,500	
Music	8,000	7,999	8,600	
Organ Maintenance	890	1,485	1,300	
Sanctuary	1,150	1,435	1,300	
Heat & Light	8,880	6,900	7,000	
Insurance	4,410	4,469	4,500	
Maintenance	2,000	2,890	3,000	
Reader Training	100	129	500	
Printing	190	655	500	
Telephones	390	411	500	
Sundries	1,580	1,661	2,000	
Administrator	4,420	4,752	5,000	
Transfers to Fabric Fund	-	5,000	5,000	
Transfers to Organ Appeal & StS Renovation Fund	9,600	8,200	11,000	
TOTAL	128,840	133,693	141,500	
Surplus + / Deficit -	11,930	2,649	0	
General Fund				
Opening Balance - 1 Jan	6,330	18,260	20,909	
Closing Balance - 31 Dec	18,260	20,909	20,909	
C.L.Angell, Hon. Treasurer, 4th March 2017				

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST JOHN'S BOXMOOR						
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES						
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016						
	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL 2016 £	FUNDS 2015 £
Incoming Resources						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	90,061	3,335	-	93,396	85,794
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	13,460	3,047	-	16,507	39,324
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	40,211	1,750	-	41,961	37,502
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments	2e	2,427	921	1	3,349	4,091
Total Incoming Resources		146,159	9,053	1	155,213	166,711
Resources Expended						
Grants	3a	4,135	1,500	-	5,635	5,980
Activities directly relating to the work of the church	3b	118,248	3,876	-	122,124	121,788
Fund-raising and publicity	3c	1,444	-	-	1,444	3,069
Church management and administration	3d	6,483	2,763	-	9,246	9,827
Total Resources Expended		130,310	8,139	-	138,449	140,664
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources		15,849	914	1	16,764	26,047
Gains and Losses on Investments						
realised		-	-	-	-	-
unrealised		-	-	21,673	21,673	5,127
Net Movement in Funds		15,849	914	21,674	38,437	31,174
Balances brought forward at 1st January 2015 (2014)		18,259	450,729	174,371	643,359	612,185
Transfers between Funds		(13,200)	13,200	-	-	-
Balances carried forward		20,908	464,843	196,045	681,796	643,359

BALANCE SHEET				
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016				
	Note	2016	2015	
		£	£	
Fixed Assets				
Tangible fixed assets	5a	493,474	493,474	
Investment Assets	5b	195,994	174,321	
		<u>689,468</u>	<u>667,795</u>	
Current Assets				
Stock		-	-	
Debtors	7	6,336	8,870	
Short Term Deposits		51	50	
Cash at bank and in hand		41,172	32,864	
		<u>47,559</u>	<u>41,784</u>	
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within 1 year	8	(14,105)	(13,995)	
Net Current Assets		<u>33,454</u>	<u>27,789</u>	
Long Term Loans		(41,126)	(52,225)	
Net Assets		<u>681,796</u>	<u>643,359</u>	
Funds				
	6 & 9			
Unrestricted		20,908	18,259	
Restricted		464,843	450,729	
Endowment		196,045	174,371	
		<u>681,796</u>	<u>643,359</u>	
The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts				

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016					
1. Accounting Policies					
The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 1997					
The accounts also comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005); Charities Act 1993 (as amended by the Charities Act 2006) and Regulations made thereunder; and with applicable accounting standards.					
The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention					
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2016	FUNDS 2015
2. Incoming Resources	£	£	£	£	£
<i>2a. Incoming resources from donors</i>					
Planned giving	67,431	-	-	67,431	60,949
Collections(open plate) at all services	19,775	-	-	19,775	18,797
Sundry donations	2,855	3,335	-	6,190	6,048
	90,061	3,335	-	93,396	85,794
<i>2b. Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Appeals	3,710	3,047	-	6,757	23,741
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Fêtes & other fund raising events	9,750	-	-	9,750	15,583
	13,460	3,047	-	16,507	39,324
<i>2c. Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>					
Magazines	2,915	-	-	2,915	3,116
Coffee	1,321	-	-	1,321	1,000
Church halls lettings etc	19,007	-	-	19,007	16,768
Fees	15,660	1,750	-	17,410	14,837
Merchandising & Printing	1,308	-	-	1,308	1,781
	40,211	1,750	-	41,961	37,502
<i>2d. Other ordinary incoming resources</i>					
Insurance claims & settlements	-	-	-	-	-
<i>2e. Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including any reclaimed tax	2,427	921	1	3,349	4,091
Total Incoming Resources	146,159	9,053	1	155,213	166,711

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL	FUNDS
	Funds	Funds	Funds	2016	2015
3. Resources Expended	£	£	£	£	£
<i>3a. Grants</i>					
Missionary & charitable giving:					
Church overseas					
missionary societies	-	-	-	-	665
relief & development agencies	579	-	-	579	1,165
Home missions & other Church Societies	3,556	1,500	-	5,056	4,150
	4,135	1,500	-	5,635	5,980
<i>3b. Activities directly relating to work of the Church</i>					
Ministry: diocesan parish share	75,930	-	-	75,930	75,571
clergy expenses	3,407	-	-	3,407	9,371
Church - running expenses	21,234	855	-	22,089	16,954
Church maintenance & Repairs	4,375	3,021	-	7,396	7,236
Expenditure on parish magazine	1,694	-	-	1,694	1,818
Church hall running costs	3,609	-	-	3,609	2,839
Music	7,999	-	-	7,999	7,999
	118,248	3,876	-	122,124	121,788
<i>3c. Fund-raising and publicity</i>					
Costs of fêtes and other fund-raising events	1,444	-	-	1,444	3,069
<i>3d. Church management and administration</i>					
Administration:					
Printing & stationery	1,320	-	-	1,320	1,749
Telephones	411	-	-	411	394
Administrator	4,752	-	-	4,752	4,421
Loan repayments & costs	-	2,763	-	2,763	3,263
	6,483	2,763	-	9,246	9,827
Total Resources Expended	130,310	8,139	-	138,449	140,664

4. Staff Costs

Music expenses include payments made to St John's Director of Music and Administration costs include payments made to the Parish Administrator. Church hall running costs include payments made to the Hall caretaker and Hall cleaner.

No National Insurance or pension contributions were payable in respect of any of them in 2016 or 2015

5. Fixed Assets for use by the PCC				
5a. <i>Tangible fixed assets</i>				
Buildings - St John`s Hall & West End	£493,474	(2014	£493,474)	
5b. <i>Investments</i>				
		Market Value		
13,106 shares in the CBF Investment		2016	2015	
Fund (historical cost at		£	£	
31st December 2016: £4,018)		195,994	174,321	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL
	Funds	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
6. Analysis of Net Asset Fund				
Fixed Assets	-	493,474	195,994	689,468
Current Assets	22,914	24,594	51	47,559
Current Liabilities	(2,006)	(12,099)	-	(14,105)
Long Term Loans	-	(41,126)	-	(41,126)
Fund Balance	20,908	464,843	196,045	681,796
7. Debtors				
			2016	2015
			£	£
Prepayments of insurance			2,239	2,231
Gift Aid Claim			4,097	6,639
Other			-	-
			6,336	8,870
8. Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year				
Parishoner Loan repayments			-	1,000
Dacorum Borough Council loan repayments			4,000	4,000
Charity Bank Loan repayments			8,099	7,545
Creditors for goods and services			2,006	1,450
			14,105	13,995

	Balance at
9. Fund Details	31/12/16
	£
Restricted Funds	
Building Reserve	493,474
Fabric Fund	5,037
Organ Appeal Fund*	(43,701)
St Stephen's Renovation	(2,276)
Discretionary	7,212
Social Committee	501
Wedding Advances	3,850
Holiday at Home	746
	464,843
Endowment Funds	
Centenary Fund	82,482
Rolph Bequest	82,099
Freeman-Rolph	31,464
	196,045
* The movement on the Organ Appeal Fund comprised:	
	£
Opening Balance 1/1/2016	(48,185)
Music at St Johns donations	2,768
Gifts	279
PCC transfers	4,200
Loan interest paid	(2,763)
Closing Balance 31/12/2016	(43,701)

10. St Stephen`s Income and Expenditure 2016			
	2016	2015	
	£	£	
Income			
Collections	236	334	
Planned Giving	3,900	3,766	
Hall Lettings	6,886	4,459	
Donations	305	1,010	Excludes donations to Fabric Fund to meet cost of repairs.
	11,327	9,569	
Expenditure			
Heat & Light	577	1,489	
Insurance	572	584	
Maintenance & Sundries	1,016	318	
	2,165	2,391	
Contribution to Boxmoor Parish	9,162	7,178	
11. Missions and Charitable Giving 2016			
	Gross		Allocation
	Donation	Collection	from PCC
Beneficiary	£	£	£
Bibles for Children*	414	64	350
British Legion	180	180	-
Childrens' Society	1,484	1,484	-
Crisis	680	680	-
Christian Aid	579	579	-
Churches Together	75	-	75
DENS	723	723	-
	4,135	3,710	425
In addition £135 was sent by the Home and Family Group to the Paul Strickland Scanner Appeal at Mount Vernon Hospital and £416 from collections at funerals to nominated charities.			

Accounts for St Francis Hammerfield 2017					
	2017	2016	2017	Variance	
Income	Budget	Actual Total	Budget	To Total	Budget
	£				
Giving	4,000	4,680	4,000	680	
Hall Lettings	7,500	8,546	7,500	1,046	
Fundraising	242	0	242	(242)	
Coffee etc.	0	0	0	0	
Gulliver Bequest	600	554	600	(46)	
Interest - CBF Account	40	39	40	(1)	
Credit on Energy bills	0	472	0	472	
Total	12,382	13,819	12,382	1,909	
Expenditure					
Parish Share	3,809	3,560	3,809	(249)	
Sanctuary	100	0	100	(100)	
Gas	1,000	823	1,000	(177)	
Electricity	700	1,011	700	311	
Insurance	850	840	850	(10)	
Water	154	154	154	(0)	
Maintenance & Repairs	2,500	1,009	2,500	(1,491)	
Sundries - cleaning	900	923	900	23	
Church Union	50	0	50	(50)	
Churches Together	25	25	25	0	
Charitable Giving	242	0	242	(242)	
Petty Cash	0	137	0	137	
Music	700	148	700	(552)	
Total	11,030	8,630	11,030	(2,400)	
Running 2016	1,352	5,189	1,352	4,309	
Restricted Income					
Carter Trust	0	0	0	0	
Joyce Ralphs Bequest	0	0	0	0	
Michael Abbiss Bequest	0	0	0	0	
Sheila Howe Bequest	0	1,000	0	0	
Donation towards new vestments	0	0	0	0	
Donation towards cost of ramp	0	2,000	0	2,000	
Total	0	3,000	0	2,000	
Restricted Expenditure					
Clergy	800	722	800	(78)	
Ramp	3,000	0	3,000	(3,000)	
Total	3,800	722	3,800	(3,078)	
Balance on Carter Trust		0			
Total Deficit 2015		4,467			

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016								
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2016	FUNDS 2015		
Incoming Resources		£	£	£	£	£		
Incoming Resources from Donors	2a	4,882			4,882	2,668		
Other Voluntary incoming resources	2b	505			505	212		
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	9,689			9,689	7,320		
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	472	3,000		3,472	0		
Income from Investments	2e	593			593	699		
Total Incoming Resources		16,141	3,000	0	19,141	10,900		
Resources Expended								
Grants	3a	530			530	287		
Activities directly relating to the work Of the church	3b	9,326			9,326	11,398		
Fund-raising and publicity	3c							
Church management and administration	3d							
Total Resources Expended		9,856	0	0	9,856	11,685		
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources		6,285	3,000	0	9,285	(786)		
Gains and (Losses) on Investments								
Realised								
Unrealised				1,889	1,889	228		
Net Movement in Funds		6,285	3,000	1,889	11,173	2,010		
Balances brought forward at 1st January 2016 (2015)		16,277	2,137	17,014	35,428	37,128		
Transfers between Funds								
Balances carried forward		22,562	5,137	18,903	46,601	35,428		

BALANCE SHEET							
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016							
		Note			2,016		2015
					£		£
Fixed Assets							
Tangible Fixed Assets		5a					
Investment Assets		5b			18,903		17,014
					<u>18,903</u>		<u>17,014</u>
Current Assets							
Stock							
Debtors		7					
Short Term Deposits					8,375		8,336
Cash at Bank and in hand					19,323		10,079
					<u>27,698</u>		<u>18,415</u>
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within 1 ye		8			-		-
Net Current Assets					27,698		18,415
Long Term Loans							
Net Assets					46,601		35,429
Funds		6 & 9					
Unrestricted					22,562		16,209
Restricted					5,137		2,137
Endowment					18,903		17,014
					<u>46,601</u>		<u>35,361</u>
The notes on the following pages form part of these accounts							

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016					
1. Accounting Policies					
The Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, in accordance with the Church Account Regulations 1997					
The accounts also comply with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005); Charities Act 1993 (as amended by the Charities Act 2006) and Regulations made thereunder; and with applicable accounting standards.					
The accounts are prepared under the historical cost conventions					
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2016	FUNDS 2015
	£	£	£	£	£
2. Incoming Resources					
<i>2a. Incoming Resources from donors</i>					
Planned giving	1,070			1,070	850
Collections (Open plate) at all services	3,812			3,812	1,818
Sundry Donations				0	0
	4,882	0	0	4,882	2,668
<i>2b. Other voluntary incoming resources</i>					
Appeals		2,000		2,000	0
Legacies		1,000		1,000	0
Fetes & other fund raising events	505			505	212
	505	3,000	0	3,505	212
<i>2c. Income from charitable and ancillary trading</i>					
Magazines				0	0
Coffee				0	19
Church hall lettings etc.	9,689			9,689	7,299
Candles				0	3
Merchandising & Printing				0	0
	9,689	0	0	9,689	7,320
<i>2d. Other ordinary incoming resources</i>					
Credits from Utility Provider	472			472	0
<i>2e. Income from investments</i>					
Dividends and interest including any Reclaimed tax	593			593	699
Total Incoming Resources	16,141	3,000	0	19,141	10,900

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)										
For the year ending 31st December 2016										
				Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total	FUNDS	
					Funds	Funds	Funds	2016	2015	
					£	£	£	£	£	
3. Resources Expended										
<i>3.a Grants</i>										
Missionary & Charitable giving:										
Church overseas										
Missionary Societies										
Relief & development agencies										
Home missions & other Church Societies						10	530		530	287
							0	0	530	287
<i>3.b Activities directly relating to work of The Church</i>										
Ministry: Diocesan Parish Share							3,560		3,560	3,360
Ministry: Clergy Expenses							722		722	1,205
Church - running expenses							4,036		4,036	5,496
Church maintenance & repairs							1,009		1,009	2,543
							9,326	0	9,326	12,603
<i>3c. Fund-raising and publicity</i>										
Costs of fetes and other fund-raising events										0
<i>3d. Church management and administration</i>										
Administration:										
Printing & Stationery										
Telephones										
Administrator										
Loan repayments & costs										
							0	0	0	0
Total Resources Expended							9,856	0	9,856	12,890
4. Staff Costs										
There were no staff costs payable in respect of 2016										

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)				
For the year ending 31st December 2016				
5. Fixed Assets for use by the PCC				
<i>5a. Tangible Fixed Assets</i>				
Buildings				
<i>5b. Investments</i>				
		Market Value		
1,264 shares in the CBF Investment		2,016	2,015	
Fund (historical cost at		£	£	
31st December 2016 - £734)		18,903	17,014	
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment
		Funds	Funds	Funds
		£	£	£
				Total
				2016
6. Analysis of Net Asset Fund				
Fixed Assets				18,903
Current Assets		22,562	5,137	27,699
Current Liabilities				0
Long Term Loans				0
Fund Balance		22,562	5,137	18,903
				46,601
7. Debtors				
				2,016
				2015
				£
				£
Prepayments of Gas & Electricity				
8. Liabilities: Amounts Falling Due				
Within One Year				
No liabilities falling due within one year				
9. Fund Details				
		Balance at		
		31/12/2016		
Endowment Funds		£		
Gulliver Bequest		18,903		
		18,903		
10. Missions and Charitable Giving 2016				
		Gross		Allocation
		Donation	Collection	from PCC
Beneficiary		£	£	£
Church Union				
Churches Together		25		25
DA Mampong (Ghana)		505	505	
		530	505	25
At the Carols by Candlelight in December 2016 The Hospice of St Francis collected £300.00.				

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST BOXMOOR:
REPORT ON THE FABRIC GOODS AND ORNAMENTS – YEAR END DECEMBER 2016

All Three Churches

Obligatory annual and periodic maintenance, inspection/testing and certification of gas heating appliances and boilers, fire protection systems/extinguishers, portable electrical appliances, lightning conductors and fixed electrical systems have all been carried out in accordance with statutory requirements and regulations. Remedial action was taken where required.

All low level gutters and drainpipes have been cleared out by volunteer labour.

St John's

There was an Archdeacon's inspection in August and apart from a couple of minor issues everything was found to be in order.

A faculty has been granted for a plaque to be set in the wall on the east side of the church in commemoration of Canon Alan Freeman and his wife Margot.

As the church is now kept open during the day locks have been fitted to the two doors leading from the church into the choir vestry. All valuables are taken out of the church when it is not in use for a service. CCTV cameras have also been installed.

A new water heater has been fitted in the kitchenette at the back of church.

There have been no major fabric concerns this year.

St Francis

A ramp with rails is being put in place to make access to the church and hall easier.

There were problems with the toilets but these have now been sorted.

St Stephen's

Down pipe was blocked but this has now been cleared.

Di and Lorraine
Church Wardens

SIDES PERSONS SEEKING ELECTION

Chris Angell	Catherine Holness	Yvonne Munford
Sally Bates	Marion Howard	Ian Packe
Julie Barton	Andreas Ioannou	Janet Packe
Garth Bridgwood	Lorraine Ioannou	Rob Porter
Peter Clayton	Noel James	Yolanda Porter
Marion Cowe	Sheila James	Alan Proehl
Alan Darvill	Marion King	Sue Proehl
Marian Davies	Yvonne Laidlaw	Job Rombout
Jo Fisher	Graham Liddle	Trevor Standen
Linda Gair	Leslie Lunn	Beryl Taylor
Mark Harbour	Annie Mitchell	Muriel Williams
Anne Higham	Alan Munford	Sheena Wilson

Deanery Report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 2016/17

Deanery Synod met three times this year in February, June and October.

The February 2016 meeting was held at Grovehill when we received reports from Diocesan Synod and General Synod. This is how we keep in touch with what is going on in the Church of England. The Reverend Jeanette Gosney updated Synod on “Living God’s Love”. The emphasis is now on how we are addressing the 3 headings, rather than just what we are doing. The three key words are *joy, imagination and courage*. One of the targets in the Deanery MAP is for Synod members to get to know each other more, and with this in mind we were planning a joint Ascension Day Service and a Deanery Quiz. Updates were given about the work of DENS and the BASE in Bank Court.

The June meeting was held at St John’s, Boxmoor. This was an open meeting when the main topic was “Working with children and Young People”. We welcomed Margaret Pritchard-Houston (Diocesan Children’s Mission Enabler) and Dean Pusey (Diocesan Youth Officer) to the meeting. A report from the Lay Chapter was received and we set up a working group to plan the visit of the Bishop of Bedford to the Deanery in November. There is always a treasurer’s report and a sharing of news from the churches at every meeting.

In October we met at St Mary’s Church, Apsley when we finalised plans for the Bishop of Bedford’s visit on 23rd November. The subject of Safeguarding was an important item on this agenda. The Deanery Map will be reviewed in 2017 and a working group will consider whether the targets set have been achieved or made progress. We learned that the Reverend Richard Howlett is to be licensed to St Mary’s and St Benedict’s in January. Plans to fill the vacancy of Team Rector of the HH Benefice are well in hand.

The Bishop of Bedford visited the Deanery on 23rd November when he spent time in Kings Langley, Longdean School and the Marlowes Centre. He had supper with the clergy at St John’s and the visit ended with a service in the church.

This is the last year of the triennium and 4 new Synod reps need to be elected at the APCM.

Jean Garner
Deanery Secretary
12.3.17

VICAR'S REPORT ON 2016

To be given at the APCM 2017

It is pleasing, as a young (ish) member of the clergy, to minister in a Diocese and Parish that is committed to growth – both numerical and spiritual. During 2016 the Diocese relaunched its visionary initiative of *Living God's Love* with its aims of *going deeper into God; transforming communities; and making new disciples*. Consequently we were encouraged to review and renew our Parish Mission Action Plan with a view to how we, as a Parish, might seek to *Live God's Love* more fully. After conducting a survey of the congregation towards the end of 2015 the PCC adopted 6 Goals to work towards during the year, to help us in our mission of being God's messengers of his Good News. With varying degrees of success we have worked very hard at achieving our Goals. More work needs to be done in 2017 and indeed some fresh Goals will need to be set but I think it is helpful to know that:

- Goal: For the Ministry Team to be active in every School in the Parish
Result: Part-achieved but is ongoing. Only one school has no relationship with the Ministry Team. The Clergy are taking assemblies, school visits, and leading Acts of Worship throughout the year. We hope to be able to be more active in this area.
- Goal: Hold bi-monthly Bible Study and discussion groups
Result: Part-achieved but is ongoing. Our Sermon Series in the autumn interrupted this pattern but this will return in 2017.
- Goal: Open the Doors of St John's
Result: Achieved. The church is now frequently used by people just popping in to say their prayers throughout the day.
- Goal: Facilitate Transport to Services
Result: Part-achieved but is ongoing. A new co-ordinator has been identified and the process continues. The PCC has also set-up a Transport Working Group to explore the issue of parking at St John's.
- Goal: Support families following Pastoral Offices
Result: Part-achieved but is on-going. The Parish already offers good support following bereavement and prepares families for Baptism and Marriage but can we make it any better? Yes, and we are with revamped Baptism Prep, Marriage Prep and greater communication with these groups.
- Goal: Run a successful Stewardship Campaign
Result: Achieved. The level of general giving rose with a large number of the congregation seriously considering their level of financial support for the Church and how they would give.

So 2 of our Goals have been fully achieved and the other 4 are works in progress. This is a great start and a sign that our Parish is not in decline or dying (as many are) but is actually growing and striving for God's Kingdom to come on earth.

Another helpful barometer that our Parish is alive and active is that 10 members of the congregation – of all ages – were Confirmed in 2016: 2 at the Deanery Confirmation Service at St Mary's Old Town and 8 at a Confirmation Service in the Parish. There is a real thirst for knowledge about the Faith and a desire to grow in Jesus Christ. Our Sermon Series during September and October is a prime illustration of how we are all engaging afresh in the mysteries of God and how we can be his people.

Another helpful indicator of a church that is alive and active is its work with those who are not necessarily regular members of the congregation. It is pleasing that we are regarded as a welcoming and hospitable church, and as ever we need to work hard to maintain this reputation. But it is also through hard work that we have earned this reputation. From welcoming the stranger on a Sunday to opening our doors every day we are showing that we are not a private members club but are here for everyone. From our monthly *On My Own* lunches and *Friendship Teas* to our summer *Holiday @ Home* we are showing that God is interested in each of us; and so are we interested in each other. My sincere thanks to the many people and organisers who make each of these possible.

As a Parish we are diverse in location and worshipping styles, and yet I believe we are more united now than we have been at any point during my time among you. Each of our churches is offering worship that is particular and specific for that congregation but not so much as a statement for being different or exclusive. All are welcome to go to whichever style or place of worship they choose and yet still know they are part of this Parish and are welcome. I am particularly pleased that our congregations do come together for Parish occasions although there is still more work to be done here. Our Parish Fun Day in particular is a day to come together and, despite the weather, we did all come together and rejoice in each other's company.

One of the defining moments during the year was Fr Ben's ordination to the Holy Priesthood in St Albans Abbey. It is always a joy to see someone responding to God's call in their lives and this was no exception. The High Mass he offered in celebration of ordination a few days later at St Francis was beautifully and expertly conducted – such is the liturgical skill of our curate. It is a joy to see how Fr Ben is growing into his calling to be a priest among us and as he continues to learn how to be a pastor of God's people.

It is real blessing to be part of a Ministry Team such as we have in Boxmoor. Not only is it functional, but the quality and diversity of gifts exhibited in the Team complement each other for a greater experience of Worship and a deepening of our faith through the excellent sermons and homilies given. My sincere thanks to the Reverend Jeanette Gosney and Carole Lewis for their distinctive ministries, to our Lay Leaders of Worship and the contribution they make to leading worship at St Stephen's Church, to Sheena Wilson as she continues to study to be a Lay Reader, and to the plethora of retired or assistant clergy who have helped maintain the distinctive catholic style of worship offered at St Francis.

I should also like to thank publically our Church Wardens for all that they do in sharing the leadership and legal responsibilities for the life of this Parish. I am most grateful for their counsel, support, and encouragement. But of course this Parish would not function without the vast number of people who assist us in the running of the Parish. Whether you assist with Junior Church, church cleaning or as a member of the PCC – Thank you. Whether you are involved with the Newsletter or Magazine, the choir and our musical life, or church maintenance – Thank you. Whether you visit people at home, assist with the distribution of Holy Communion, or are a sidesperson and welcomer – Thank you. Whether you mow the lawn, serve teas and coffees, or help as a server or reader during our liturgies – Thank you. Whether you arrange the Parish finances, take copious minutes at our various meetings, or provide technical support for computer illiterate clergy – Thank you. My biggest thank you

though is to all of you who faithfully and diligently pray for the life of this Parish on a regular basis. Without prayer and responding to God's call to be active in his service in this place we are simply another organisation who have some rather strange customs. Everything we do needs to be, and must be, rooted in prayer.

I should also like to thank publicly two other people: Alison, our Parish Administrator for the fabulous job she does at keeping the Ministry Team on the straight and narrow and for fielding the countless queries and enquiries we get each year. Without her support our ministries would be the poorer among you. And Linden, our Director of Music for her sensitive yet professional playing and leading of the musical life of the Parish. I am convinced that our musical life has helped many in the congregation find their spiritual home among us.

At the risk of this report sounding like an Oscar's acceptance speech I should also like to thank Emma, Sophie, and Abigail, my growing family, for their love and support throughout the year. The disruption of working from home is never easy, especially for a toddler to understand, but somehow we are making it work and muddling through. Thank you so very much.

You might be interested to note that the following number of Pastoral Offices were conducted:

	2016		2015	
Baptisms:	27	(2 adults)	37	(2 adults)
Weddings:	13	+ 3 Blessings	11	+ 3 Blessings
Funerals:	37	(16 at Crematoria)	41	(18 at Crematoria)
Interment of Ashes:	20		16	at St John's

It is entirely possible that numbers for these services has been effected by the lack of parking around St John's. A *Working Group* has been set-up to advise the PCC as to the appropriate next steps. I think it is highly likely that a decision will need to be made in 2017 or soon after as to whether we commit to funding and building a car park within the grounds of St John's. An act of faith will be required in order to make this decision.

It has been a privilege to walk with, and lead you as your vicar this past year and I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us into the future. As we prepare to celebrate the joys of the resurrection this Easter may our lives be transformed by the God for whom all things are possible, and in whom we may have life –life in all its fullness.

In Christ,



The Reverend Michael Macey, Vicar