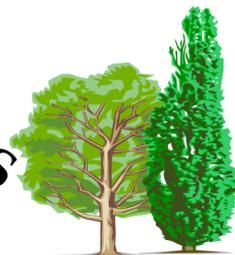




THE CHURCH IN BINLEY WOODS

*knowing Jesus
and making him known*



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ANNUAL REPORT 2015

To be presented to the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21st April 2016

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Background

The Church in Binley Woods is a Local Ecumenical Partnership between Baptists and Anglicans, which developed in the early 1980s and was formalised in November 1987.

Partner churches are Meredith Road Baptist Church and St Bartholomew's Church, Binley.

Our commitment is **to know Jesus and to make Him known in Binley Woods,**
and we welcome people from all Christian denominations and none.

The Church worships in the village Hall on Sundays, having no buildings of its own.

Minister's Reflections

I am sure having a one year old means that time makes even less sense than normal. I can't decide whether it feels like no time at all since I was writing my reflections for last year's AGM, or whether it was a lifetime ago, as we now feel part of the furniture in Binley Woods. I certainly struggle to remember a time before Bex and I had Joshua (though there is a faint memory of being able to sleep beyond 7am)! But no matter how time has flowed, it has been exciting as we have watched him grow and find his feet, learning new tricks all the time.

And in many ways, I feel like I have been undergoing something of a parallel experience to Joshua, as I grow into my calling of ministry, with moments of growth and excitement and the odd moment where it has all seemed a little overwhelming. Hopefully I am starting to find my feet and am picking up a few tricks as I go along though, just like Joshua, there is much growing still to be done!

Particular church highlights this year for me have been Beta, Messy Church, Lionheart, Joshua's thanksgiving service, our Church Members' meetings (particularly as we have sought Christ's mind on how to use Christine's legacy to build the Kingdom), singing Silent Night with Christingles in hand at the end of our nativity, our choir at Carols by Candlelight, welcoming new members, the Praise & Prayer Evening, the way that everyone got on board for Freedom in Christ... to name but a few! God has been good, and we have been blessed.

It is also important that we remember those parts of our mission whose season has passed, such as FridayTG and Prayer Place. We thank God for how he has used these activities over past years, and we pray for new life to emerge out of the seeds that they planted.

And so as I look to the year ahead I am excited. Excited for Becky and her ministry as she gets involved leading a home group, WIT, and hopefully a Mother and Toddler group in the village. Excited to see how God may use a time of reflection on discipleship to show us how we can be fruitful in our everyday lives for God's Kingdom. Excited to see how God will call us to put Christine's legacy to use. Excited to see how all our current ministries will develop and excited to discover those things that God has for us that we don't see yet! Basically, I'm excited to see our God at work, to see stories changed and lives transformed and... I hope you are too!

As I sign off, I just wanted once again to thank all of you for your kind support to Becky, Joshua and me over the last year. You have made us all feel very much loved and appreciated throughout, and we don't take you for granted! I want to pay particular thanks to my Leadership Team, in particular Shân and Maurice as they step down for a well-earned rest. Thank you for your earnest searching for God's will for this community, you make my job much easier! I pray that God will rain down showers of blessing upon us this coming year so that we may bless this village of ours and all with whom we come into contact.



God Bless, Jonny, Becky and Josh

Leadership Team

The Church has a Leadership Team comprising the Minister and up to five lay leaders. Lay leaders are elected by the Church Members' Meeting, normally at the AGM. They may serve a term of three years and be re-elected for a further three before standing down for at least one year. The Leadership Team has a responsibility for the day to day life of the fellowship by implementing decisions made by the Meeting of Church Voting Members.

During the year, the following served on the Leadership Team:

Jonny Fillis	Minister
Angela Bowes	2 nd term elected AGM 2012 – 2015
Paul Bowes	1 st term elected July 2013 – AGM 2016
Shân Dobinson	2 nd term elected AGM 2013 – 2016
Sue Maher	1 st term elected AGM 2015 - 2018
Maurice Markham	1 st term elected July 2013 for the ministerial vacancy
John Stanley	2 nd term elected AGM 2012 - 2015

Officers Treasurer: Roger Manning re-elected at AGM 2015
 Secretary Dianne Hodgetts re-elected at AGM 2015

Administrative help has been given by Linda Maynard and Margaret Bolton who houses our photocopier.

Support and oversight

The Church functions within the normal practices and guidelines of both Coventry Diocese and the Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA) and often makes use of the resources of both. Deanery Synod Representatives: the Minister and Roger Manning re-elected for 3 years at AGM 2014 - 2017

The Church relates to the Coventry and Warwickshire Ecumenical Council – the **Sponsoring Body** – for support.

A **Local Advisory Group** acts as liaison to review and pray about our church's activities and future opportunities. Our L.A.G representatives are John Stanley (Sue Maher till July 2015) and Roger Manning.

Church membership

The Common Roll at 31st January 2016:

11 Anglican with 8 Voting, 10 Baptist with 9 Voting, 18 non-aligned with 13 Voting
32 are resident in Binley Woods. We gained three new members (Becky Fillis, Bev and Frank Hanrahan) but on 5th March 2015 were very sad when one of our oldest friends and regular supporters, Walter Stanley, died at the grand age of 94.

Church attendance

Average Sunday attendance was 42 adults, with 0-4 children in Junior Church served by a dedicated team coordinated by Dianne Hodgetts. However in the course of a month, about 76 adults attended a worship service including home communions and FTG, our café church.

As we said last year, **we couldn't do it without you!** Paul's letter to the church at Corinth gives the apt illustration of us all being part of the body (of Christ). This shows everyone is important and has a part to play. Rather than name everyone individually in this report, the Leadership Team wants to acknowledge and give thanks again for all those who so often work behind the scenes and without any recognition. This includes (not mentioned elsewhere in this report) those who:

- set up the village hall ready for the service on Sunday
- welcome everyone to the service with a smile
- clear away afterwards
- make tea and coffee for us after the service
- wash up afterward
- give lifts to help people come on a Sunday

Review of the Year

This annual report is the review of 2015 by all our church members and friends. Each group has given us a summary of how the year has been in their activities and meetings so do please take the time to read it and let the authors know you have read their contribution. Perhaps you could also use this annual report to pray for all the different groups and their service to others inside and outside the church, throughout our community.

During 2015 our verse of the year was *Psalm 28, verse 7 The Lord is My Strength and my Shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song.* We remembered this regularly in Sunday worship, especially through the song that John Stanley wrote based on the verse; we are so blessed to enjoy his ministry through this gift of song writing.

We have had some challenging and uplifting sermon themes over the last year: firstly Jesus' I am sayings, then Church on a Mission called The Church in Binley Woods manifesto (Discipleship, Ministry, Mission, Fellowship, Worship), then John's first letter, "the Spirit of ..." series looking at the role of the Holy Spirit, the book of Galatians and ended with waiting during advent. We do appreciate visiting preachers, especially to lead our Anglican Communions.

During 2015, we have been focusing on prayer for where God is leading the church, especially the development of our healing and prayer ministry, praying like Hannah for families in 20s/30s with children as well as discipleship (people not standing still), Alpha follow up and ways for us all to grow. We had a brilliant prayer and praise evening on Sunday 17th January, partly prompted by the need to listen to God about Christine's legacy; it was a wonderful opportunity to praise God for His faithfulness throughout the church's history and this was enhanced by an amazing show of photos through the years. There were different stations throughout the village hall (main hall, gallery and Morrison Room to facilitate individual prayer and reflection and we were encouraged to write down what we heard God saying to us.

As already mentioned by Jonny in his minister's reflections, much time individually and together was taken up this last year with listening to God and discerning how to respond to His generosity through Christine Hayward's bequest.

On 14th March three of our church members went back to college, just for a day. Jan and Roger Manning and Janet Stanley went to Regents Park College in Oxford to find out what really goes on when Jonny goes to college each week; their verdict was that it was a brilliant experience and they strongly recommend others to do the same, especially as we have the invitation every year Jonny is studying at RPC.

Our verse for the coming year is Ezekiel 34:26: *I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.* We trust this promise from God for the coming year, not just that we will be blessed but that we will be a blessing to others in our village.

Prayer

Are you still **Prayer Walking**? I must confess that during the cold rainy weather I have tended to go out in my car instead of walking down my part of Heather Road to the Village Hall which I normally do at least twice a week. That has meant that my prayer walking has not been done so often. Yes, I know God's working in people's lives does not depend solely on whether I do my prayer walking, but I also know that part of my responsibility as a Christian is to pray for my neighbours, and we have a Mission Statement: "To know Jesus and make him known." God does work in answer to our prayers as we see our neighbours responding in various ways as we faithfully uphold them in prayer. Brothers and sisters, let's encourage each other in this prayer ministry!

Angela Bowes

Prayer book and prayer box

Jill Hollingsworth, Dinah and I continue to meet each week to pray. We thank God for answers to prayer we hear about and for the privilege of praying for those in need.

Sadly the Prayer Box has not been used this year, nor the prayer slot on the web site but praise God the Prayer Book has been well used. God is a faithful God.

Ann Watts

Prayer meetings

We continue to meet on the first Saturday of the month to pray for the village, our church and the wider world. While only 5 – 10 people come, we believe this is a vital ministry, especially for our village; do join us if you can. Thank you for all those who lead this time and / or let us meet in their home.

Healing Ministry

Because a number of people were eager to see a greater emphasis on healing prayer within the church we met together for a consultation in March 2015. As a result of this about a dozen people attended the Healing Training Course at Barston run by The Well Christian Healing Centre the following month, which they found very helpful. We then held a further consultation, as a result of which we agreed on the following desires and decisions:

- When a person asked for healing at the end of the service we would ask them if they would like to move into the Committee Room for greater privacy and quiet, and would also ask their permission to include a second person in the prayer time.
- We needed to be open for the Lord to give us words to guide our praying during such times.
- We needed to offer the possibility of a longer time of prayer outside of the main service if there was a need. (Quite often chronic physical ills have non-physical causes which need prayer.)
- We would encourage people to give testimony of the Lord's healing in the Sunday services.
- We would like some further training about certain aspects of healing.

Now we need to continue to pray about these things, and seek to implement our decisions more fully.

Maurice Markham & Paul Bowes

Bible Fellowship Groups

There have been several changes to our Bible Fellowship groupings during 2015 with new leaders during the autumn.

Our **Monday afternoon** group mostly met at Dinah's house with about 6 ladies meeting together for good times of fellowship in prayer and discussing God's Word together. Early in the year we completed our studies in the book of Nehemiah, a wonderful story of God's people returning from exile led by Nehemiah, a faithful and inspiring leader. We found much to inspire our own Christian lives in this Old Testament book.

In Lent, we took another look at the Cross and wondered again at the depth of God's love for us in his sacrifice on the cross. The summer found us considering the suffering of the Persecuted Church, a subject that has become more relevant in recent years.

Open Doors provided the material for our understanding of the plight of our brothers and sisters in countries like Iraq, Nigeria, Colombia and Vietnam, stimulating our prayers as we held them before our Heavenly Father.

Angela Bowes

Regular meetings of our **Monday afternoon** group at Natalie's home from 1.30-3pm halted for 12 weeks while the whole Church met weekly to follow a Freedom in Christ course. During this time a review of all our Bible Fellowship Groups was carried out which resulted in people moving around.

This new group of about six people now meets fortnightly at 2 – 3.30pm and at the home of Ann Watts. We are very grateful to Ann (and previously Natalie) for making us so welcome in their homes.

Over Lent we returned to do more of the life builder Bible studies in The Cross, by John Stott which we had previously enjoyed. It is good to meet together and enjoy fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere where everyone feels able to ask questions and make comments. New people wishing to attend would be very welcome.

Jan Manning and Dianne Hodgetts

This year the **Wednesday evening** group continued with a study on Nehemiah. We then looked at a series of studies from Open Doors, followed by Freedom in Christ up to Christmas.

Numbers fluctuated throughout the year especially through FIC but the average was about 7 or 8. We start each meeting by sharing one personal topic for praise and one for prayer we then pray for each other using these topics. I believe there is a real sense of fellowship and love among the group

Bev Hanrahan, Janet Stanley

The **Thursday evening** group has been at 20 Daneswood Road, the Manse, since the start of Freedom in Christ back in September. This was joint lead by Becky Fillis, Kate Padmore, Shan Dobinson and John Stanley. We had about 12/13 people regularly attended, though it varied a bit as we met weekly. We had great discussions and people enjoyed talking together the most. The DVD was good, but the general consensus was there was too much to watch in an evening!

Since then, we have still met at 20 Daneswood Road but now every 2nd and 4th week of every month. There should be 9 people in our group, though for different reasons there are currently only 5 of us who meet regularly. We chose to study a series called 'who is Jesus?' which we are enjoying :). If anyone else would like to join us on a Thursday evening, they would be more than welcome!

Becky Fillis

Other Groups

Women in Touch: we have not met so often this year due to various circumstances - illness, and other events such as the Freedom In Christ course in the Autumn.

When we did meet, we looked at Psalm 28 and the early life of King David. At Christmas we had enjoyable time together exchanging Secret Santa gifts, laughing over the cracker jokes singing carols and having a short Christmas message. The food and drink was good too.

In February we led our Mothering Sunday Service and focused on the nurturing aspects of God's mothering love for us, and the nurturing we do in family, professions, community and Church. Women in touch began eight years ago as an opportunity for women in our Church to meet regularly together. I have been the main speaker for those years and I felt last year that it was time for me to retire from that position. Praise God that Bex is willing to become the main speaker. We look forward to the future.

Jan Manning

Arise – Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast continues to flourish and draw in men from Binley Woods/Wolston and surrounding villages including some from Coventry on occasions. We still have free access to the Wolston St. Margaret's Church Hall every month for which we are very grateful.

The success of the group seems to have inspired Rev Kevin Flanagan to start a "Who let the Dad's out" programme on a different Saturday to ours. This programme attracts Dads and their children on a Saturday morning!

The same format has been followed over the years (about 6 now), with breakfast (full English) at 9am followed by a speaker or activity afterwards. The speakers have been quite mixed over the year with the emphasis mainly on a Christian input. Paul Bowes is running that side of things this year with a greater emphasis on spirituality and encouraging the attendees to greater Christian commitment. We include videos and discussion to inspire the men and get them talking. Some have no church background, so we try to tailor the input to touch their lives as well to enable them to feel they are part of a 'band of brothers' sharing together.

We had our usual Christmas Special in December with carols and varied seasonal input from those present - and sallied forth for three evenings to sing carols in the local pubs - Roseycombe, Queen's Head and The Old Smithy. The Queen's Head manager asked us politely if we would "sing somewhat quieter please?" Success! They knew we were there!

We need your prayers to ensure this is not just a men's club, but to have spiritual impact.

Paul Bowes

Open Door

On Tuesday lunchtime a small group of people who live on their own come to the Morrison Room, to enjoy each others' company and eat tasty food. Apart from the time when we are eating, it's not usually very quiet, as we chat about this, that and the other.

Twice a month we have a home cooked two course meal, with sandwiches and cake on other Tuesdays. The compliments are very satisfying.

Many thanks to the team who provide the food we eat, the setting up of the Morrison Room and with transport to enable the less able to come and join us. We do have an Open Door policy and if you would like to join with us one Tuesday then just let us know that you are coming. Also, if you know of anyone living on their own who may like to come on a regular basis then please let us know. We thank God for the wonderful facilities in the Village Hall, and for sending us such lovely friends to share with.

Margaret Bolton

Other Activities

Friday Thank God café church has been privileged to have some very special guests last year. In the spring we had Gillian Cross an international children's author, who used to live in Wolston. She gave us wonderful insights into how she writes her books as well sharing her personal Christian faith which she only gained while she was in Wolston. In the summer we were honoured to have Sir John Houghton, the renowned physicist and international climate expert; his strong Christian interwoven with his love of science was inspiring and humbling; we were thrilled to have many new people come to FTG to hear Sir John; they were not disappointed. Finally in the autumn Sheridan Voysey, another international guest, this time from Australia with a background in radio and media, came to share his very moving story, which led to the writing of his book Resurrection Year.



Friday Thank God café church was born out of a desire to reach those on the fringe or searching for a personal faith; recently we have been praying about whether this should continue in the light of other activities and events run by our church; the result is we have decided to call a halt on our café church, at least for now. *Shân Dobinson, Carol Harvey, Janet Stanley*



Over the last year we have had some encouraging, exciting, challenging and fun times with our friends in **Prospects**. We have thought about the themes of "More Faith in Jesus", "Jesus, the Son of God who became a Human Being", and "Where is Jesus now?" emphasising that Jesus is alive with us every day, he is in heaven praying for us, and that one day he is coming back for us. God has been faithful and inspiring as Patricia and I have prayed for ideas, and he has answered our prayers for new helpers, as Bev joined us for a while, and Rachel (from the Salvation Army) has become a regular helper. The new folks invited have not joined us as yet, so please keep praying!

It was a joy to take part in the service for Ability Sunday in September and was very confidence building for our group. We held an Easter Event and also a Christmas Fayre in 2015 and were able to send over £500 to National Prospects who are struggling somewhat financially. We have kept our contact with Canley Prospects group which Leanne and Helen really enjoy going to. Thank you for your prayers – He answers! *Angela Bowes*

Book review group:

Lunch followed by a lively discussion on an agreed book on a Friday afternoon – now what could be better! And so we have continued to meet and chat about very different books; during last year we read *The Eye of the Storm* by Sir John Houghton, *A Very Private Grave* by Donna Fletcher Crow and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce

Why not join us for our next book, *Weaving Through the Years* by Linda Sawley which we will discuss at the beginning of May *Shân Dobinson*

Children and Young People

Junior Church

A stalwart team of eight people continue to serve the Lord by preparing teaching and crafts for Junior Church on Sunday mornings. Natalie Walker has kindly stepped in to cover for Val Birch during Val's eye surgery and convalescence. The number of children attending has varied. Sometimes there have been no children although now that Joshua is growing up he is becoming a welcome regular attendee for us. On occasions there have been as many as six children, usually grandchildren of the church congregation. On some special services we have been blessed with other local children and our prayer is that these will come more often and perhaps some from our Messy Church or Lionheart contacts.

Dianne Hodgetts and Team

6.58 Youth Club

As reported last year, we have a small group who meet together at the Youth Centre when school work and other commitments permit. They enjoy chatting, playing table tennis, table football and pool. They even sometimes do their homework and coach each other! All the young people have a past or present connection with a church but each of them is on a journey exploring the meaning and importance of their own faith. God has plans for each of these young people, so please keep praying for them that they will hear God's voice and discover His love for them.

Shân Dobinson, Linda Harbour

Messy Church

What a Messy Year 2015 was! In total we had Messy Church five times with each time full of laughter, crafts, stories, food, joy and by the end plenty of mess. We spent the first half of the year exploring the Trinity together with sessions on Who is God the Father? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? We shared a Messy Halloween together, learning in Jesus we have nothing to fear, and then finished the year with Messy Christmas.

Numbers increased steadily throughout the year, and we now consistently have more than 20 children each time we gather. Some come back time and again and we are slowly starting to build a nice little community, whilst every Messy Church seems to bring a few first timers as well. But more important than the numbers are the relationships we build and the stories we hear. One particular highlight for me was a little girl who doesn't regularly attend a church coming up to me at the end of a session to show a painting of the cross with a heart above it, "*Because Jesus loves me*" she confidently told me!

As we continue into 2016 (where we will meet 6 times) and as we plan for 2017 (who knows how often we will meet) these are the stories we focus on, these are the stories we pray for, for this is why we do it, this is why we Get Messy!

Jonny Fillis

Lionheart Holiday Club

'Lionheart and the Orient Express Mystery' was felt to be the best ever. At the start of the week 21 children aged 5 and 11 had enrolled and more joined during the week. Julian and the Lionheart team plus 16 adults from Binley Woods were involved (though not all there every day) including some first timers who were at the start uncertain. never having done anything like this before but very quickly were caught up in the action and enjoying themselves. This is the beauty of having the Lionheart Team; they do the hard work and preparation and we helpers enjoy ourselves alongside the children building bridges and talking with them.

As the train travelled through Europe Lionheart was 'set up' and all the clues seemed to point to his guilt. Then on the last day the real villains were identified. The children really got involved with the story. We had fun and learned about how much God loves us, about behaving the right way even when things are tough and we are being falsely accused. Each day there were games, songs, stories, crafts, memory verses, dramas and even 'magic' tricks. The children are excited each day and over the years it has been a privilege to see some come back again each year. An amazing week sowing seeds for the future. Thank you to everyone who helped but particularly to Val and Helen who very capably stepped into the very important role of providing the break time drinks and biscuits, done by Christine for so many years.

Janet Stanley

Mission

Overseas

We continue to support Dave and Rine Ingleby as they work in India. They and their children Sem and Joanne live in Delhi, a very different environment from ours. Also several of us have written to them as our friend, and I know that they appreciate this. If you would be willing to write, either email or snail mail, please ask me for their address.

Dave has been working with sufferers from leprosy, and Rine continues her work with women, especially the very marginalised Burmese women refugees.

The Ingleby family came back to England in June last year, and they shared a little of their life in Delhi with us, and then stayed to share lunch with those of us who were able to stay. It transpires that Rine and Pasanag know a lady who now lives in Delhi – it's a small world.

Please continue to pray for them.

Margaret Bolton

Home

Well what can I say? Delighted to report on another year of generosity in many forms.

At the 2015 AGM members voted to continue support Coventry City Mission in their outstanding works in Wood End and as a distributor for the Food Bank. We do this through our "Extra Giving", monies made up from various schemes as outlined below.

2015 £175.99 Loose change and Individual boxes)	
2015 £105.00 Birthday scheme)	Total £361.25
2015 £65.26 Christmas card scheme)	

At the beginning of January 2016 there were 20 people who joined the Birthday scheme, more than any other year so far! These are very substantial amounts from, especially in the case of loose change, bits and bobs. Many, many thanks to everyone.

We have also supported:

Christmas Giving Tree: Coventry City Mission gave gifts to over 600 children of needy families, some known to them, and some referred to them by Social Services, both in Wood End and other areas of the City. Each child has at least two presents plus a selection box, all individually wrapped and labelled personally with their name. A lot of giving and a lot of work for the staff and volunteers at the Mission, bless 'em and thank God for them. Our fellowship plus some of their family members gave £185.00 in gift vouchers and 54 individual presents. How great is that? Thank you also to those of you who were unable to get things themselves but entrusted me with money to do so on your behalf.

Food Bank and Harvest Festival: We decided last year to make quarterly donations to Food Bank and the last car bootful went halfway through January to restock after Christmas.

For Harvest Festival we concentrated primarily on dry/tinned goods with restricted fresh produce due to the speed needed to distribute it.

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Darren Burgess, who leads the team at CCM, visited us at end of January 2016, the first time since 2014. It was good to welcome him back and to hear his testimony and of the fruitfulness of their work. I imagine that you're as thrilled as I am that CCM have the vision and mechanisms in place to do things that we wouldn't be able to and it's a true privilege to be involved with them. Let's just keep on keeping on. Thank you, and thank you Lord on CCM's behalf. *Jill Shipway*

Christian Aid

Last year we had a wonderful concert which went really well and we made £400 for Christian Aid and made more contacts in the village; thank you to everyone for their support.

The Christian Aid fund raising concert will be on Friday 13th May at 7.30pm this year; we will have a very talented dancer, an amazing singer and a song writer; over the years, they have made lots of CDs; do book the date now as you will find it worth listening to them *Linda Player*

Safeguarding

In line with our policy to do annual Safeguarding Training, 18 people did a refresher course of Basic Training in March 2015, delivered by Carol Clarke, the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and another four were trained either at school, college or the Cathedral. Those attending training came from both our adult and child/young people workforce. Shân and I have been in discussion about training for the coming year. You will be hearing from us.

We completed a review and updating of our Safeguarding Policy for Children and Young People and it was adopted by the membership in May 2015. A copy of this and laminated worksheets giving guidance are in a new box attached to the back of the church cupboard door. Thank you, Paul for making the box.

A reviewed and updated Safeguarding Adults Policy, which focuses on recognising adults at risk has been completed and studied by those people who work with adults and was adopted in February 2016.

22 of our church family, who work with adults and/or children/young people, have been through DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance within the last three years. This is a Police check which has been done to establish that they have no record to suggest that they could be a risk to either children, young people or adults.

Can we remind all group leaders about the importance of keeping attendance registers safe and up to date. These must also include the attendance of all leaders, workers, helpers and visitors. They should never be destroyed and when no longer needed by the group be passed to the Leadership Team for safekeeping. This applies also to Adult groups.

Our thanks go to everybody concerned and involved with our work with children, young people and adults.

**Carol Clarke is still available to us for advice on any safeguarding concerns.
024 7652 1345 (Office Hours) or 079 0662 7052**

Janet Outhwaite and Shân Dobinson

<i>The Church in Binley Woods.</i>			
'Safe from Harm – Safe to Grow' <i>Policy and Procedures concerning Child Protection</i>		'Safeguarding Adults'	
<i>approved by Church Members June 2004, revised and approved July 05, July 06, October 07, November 08, May 10, July 11, January 13 and May 15</i>		<i>To be approved at CMM 1st February 2016</i>	
Children and young people are an active part of our church. They have much to give, as well as to receive. We will value and listen to them. We will nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life. We will respect their wishes and feelings. We will pray for them, their families, and all leaders and helpers.		We affirm that all adults are of equal value and importance within our church. We all have an active responsibility to be aware of each other's safety and well being.	
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Community

Flower ministry

Over the last year approximately 84 bouquets of flowers have been distributed. Of those 29 were given to members of the community outside of the church. Bouquets are normally distributed to those who are unwell, have been bereaved or are facing difficulties. They are also given to four elderly / housebound residents on their birthday every year. On behalf of the flower ministry team I would like to thank those that have bought flowers and encourage those who haven't done so to sign up. We don't always get enough flowers for me to be able to distribute bouquets to all those who have been nominated to receive them.

Lyns Cain

Pastoral visiting

Ann and Jan are responsible for coordinating the pastoral support, ensuring that as far as possible, everyone belonging to the Church is receiving appropriate support. This task is performed in conjunction with Jonny and the leadership Team.

There are fourteen pastoral visitors making regular visits to people who attend the Church, to people who through illness are unable to attend, and to people in the village who have some connection with us. If you or anyone you know needs a visit do let us know.

If you have a particular problem that you would like to talk about confidentially or need particular prayer support please contact either of us, Jonny, or your Bible Fellowship leaders.

All pastoral visits are confidential unless the person gives their consent to share, or there is a necessity to share for safeguarding or ethical reasons.

Jan Manning and Ann Watts

Publicity

Whenever we have a special service or event, we put up posters all over the village, including in some people's houses (and the Christian bookshop in Coventry). We don't know whether people read them, but we try to make them attractive and eye catching. Thank you to everyone who puts up (takes down) these posters; if you would like to help, perhaps as a back up when people are away on holiday, do let me know.

Shân Dobinson

Church Website www.thechurchinbinleywoods.org.uk

Sessions last year settled at around 75 per month. Over the year 36% sessions were from small screen devices – mobiles and tablets – about the same as last year. Only a quarter of the visits are returning visitors, so I guess most of our visits are by chance from casual web-surfers. The current website design is over 7 years old. As I reported last year, the design is now out of date and needs to be re-looked at to cater for the new smaller devices.



As I noted last year, time has also degraded some of the functionality, such as the live clickable Christian news headlines. This was a service I added for church members, but since no-one told me they noticed it not working, maybe I can dismantle rather than fix it. Do any church people ever look at our website?

The other two audiences I have had in mind for the website are:

- People in Binley Woods – how to contact the church, information about what the church is doing; familiarisation with the church; photos; coming church and local events, Christmas and Easter services.
- Wider audience – advertising the church for visitors.

The first of these has moved on – the Binley Woods page on Facebook is increasing its already good reach with a far greater local 'readership' than our website has ever had (692 'fans' in the local area), and Jonny and I have been posting information on there, where it is welcomed, such as publicity for our major events.

That leaves the wider audience, which could be catered for through the various directories available these days. What do you think?

John Stanley

Community continued

Cathedral Parish Partner (formerly 'Cathedral Liaison Officer')

Each year we meet on 3 Saturday mornings in the Cathedral and one in a Church in Warwickshire. The mornings have the same pattern, coffee and biscuits on arrival, information about what the Cathedral is doing, a speaker, the opportunity for those attending to identify prayer requests for their Churches, and a short service. I receive e-mail notification of Cathedral events and put these out at the back of the hall.

The Cathedral had to introduce charging in an attempt to balance its books, though the Dean is working towards free entry, currently all children and students are admitted free and there is no charge for anyone who wants to pray, and in addition I have 2 passes which, people can borrow, to gain free admittance to visit the Cathedral. Please ask.

It is a privilege to see how God is working in his wider Church.

Janet Stanley

Village Hall

The Village Hall committee have been busy throughout the year with a variety of events raising money for the Car Park Project and are most grateful to the Church for their donation. There was a Pudding Tasting Evening which, as you can imagine, was very well attended. In the summer, an Afternoon Tea, a wonderful experience being waited on with all home made sandwiches and cakes. It was such a winner that there was a Christmas Themed Afternoon Tea too.

Live n Local have come and brought films and we've had Cinema Nights in Binley Woods which has been a great community event, especially for people who would not normally be able to get to the Cinema. There was a wonderful Craft Fair, bringing the people of the Village together. An evening of music on February 13th was a great success with a very talented duo called "Black Heart". There's also Pantomime Time and many other activities which take place.

All of these events are helping us to get closer to the car park being renewed with no pot holes! The new lighting has been installed, a new cooker in the kitchen and we are hoping to have new flooring in the entrance hall and toilets very soon.

The Committee members do a wonderful job organising and thinking of new ideas to keep the money coming in for the upkeep and improvements to a very special Village Hall and they give up their time so freely.

Carol Harvey

Keswick Convention – July 2015

A good party from Binley Woods spent a week in the beauty of the Lake District with fantastic Bible teaching and worship leaders not to mention the chance to walk and relax with friends. With lots of very different sessions to choose from there really was something for everyone and a chance to try out different things. This year we were back at Springs Camp, fully catered for, with some of us taking the bed and breakfast option.

Why not come with us from 30th July to 5th August 2016, either as a conventioner or even as a volunteer as Shân did last year!

Janet & John Stanley



Church in Binley Woods : Financial Report and Accounts Year ending 31 December 2015 & Budget 2016

1. Annual Accounts 2015 (Yellow)

Once more we thank God for the faithful giving of his people in Binley Woods. We have ended the year with surplus of £3370.38. This surplus is however due to a generous one off donation of £4750. The underlying pattern of regular giving and regular expenditure were this year close to balance as we also covered the unbudgeted costs of the laptop and projector (£883) and the Freedom in Christ programme (£580). Much of the cost of Freedom in Christ was however covered by additional donations.

The expenditure budget was set to allow spending if necessary in areas where we anticipated not all the spending may be needed, so the underachievement of budgeted income apart from the donation was matched by some underspends elsewhere. The latest deal we have secured for the photocopier, as we hoped, has given us significant savings on our printing budget, and in 2015 we spent less than we budgeted on visiting preachers as a number declined to take expenses.

The most significant difference between 2015 and 2014 was the full year effect of employing our minister and accommodating him and his family. However this expenditure was broadly in line with what we included in this part of the budget, except for the fact that as Jonny has not yet joined the BU pension scheme there has been an underspend on that heading.

During the year members continued to give support to Jonny Fillis college fees and £3820 was sent in the autumn to Regents Park College. The higher figure of giving in the year to the College Fees Fund (£4120) includes promises given in 2014 of monthly contributions the annual value of which are sent to the college in advance, and this process in 2015 explains the negative balance in that fund.

2 Budget for 2016 (Green)

This year I am putting before the church a budget just for the current year without projecting forward for 2017. This is because the discussions on the use of Christine Haywood's legacy and our future plans for the church carry the possibility of different implications for our budget which we need to resolve before illustrating what 2017 will look like in financial terms.

The 2016 budget carries forward existing patterns of activity with some addition for more frequent meetings of Messy Church and reduction from a recognition that Friday TG has run its course as a regular event. There is a small budget for the "Fruitfulness on the Front-line" programme but this is expected to be much less costly than the "Freedom" programme.

3 Looking Forward to 2017.

Even before the thinking on Christine's legacy had properly begun the Leadership Team and the Treasurer had agreed to look again at how we prepare our budget. On the one hand the Leadership Team wanted more input into the budget and the Treasurer wanted to have greater clarity on the longer term plans for developing the life of the church. It has always been unhelpful when the budget is agreed part way into the year and where there has been only limited longer term planning.

The result is that once the Church has decided the strategy for using the legacy, the LT and

Treasurer will work on planning and then on the budget in the autumn with a view to bringing the budget to the Church before the beginning of the next year. The Annual Accounts will still be approved at the AGM in the Spring.

It is now expected that the final accounts for Christine's estate will be completed after Easter and that the Church's legacy will be in our account before the end of April.

4. Patterns of Expenditure

I have done the usual analysis of the pattern of our actual and budgeted expenditure into themes.

	Budget	Actual	Budget	% of	% of
Analysis by themes	2015	2015	2016	2015 actual	2016 budget
Services Prayer & Worship	2515	3471	2720	10	8
Pastoral Ministry and Leadership	25425	23341	24349	70	73
Children & Young People etc	1600	1266	1705	4	5
Communication and Links	660	368	670	1	2
Giving	4600	4672	3800	14	11
Total	34620	33119	33620	100	100

This shows again that around three quarters of our budget is represented by the cost of Ministry and leadership including the cost of the manse. The division of the expenditure between these headings is according to my best judgment but of course some costs contribute under more than one heading.

5. Church Funds and the Future

Members will see from the statement of funds on the back of the Annual Accounts that we have a significant amount in our general balances due to 2 years of substantial surplus. In addition in the Youth Work fund and the Manse Repairs fund we have built up balances which taken with the Building Fund amount to a further £10,000 or so. There may be a need to hold sums in hand to cover unexpected major costs such as boiler replacement at the manse or the purchase of a Church keyboard if John Stanley's expires, but I believe we need to look at these funds carefully in the light of what we agree as our strategy for the future together with Christine's legacy. There is no merit in holding money for the sake of it, if the needs of the Kingdom can be advanced by wisely spending what we have been blessed with over past years.

In the longer term however there is a challenge because the past two years have been exceptional. Our expenditure has typically been more than our income and we have relied on balances to cover the gap. We need to continue to pray for the Lord to add to our number so that we have the people resources and the financial resources to continue our work of making Jesus known in Binley Woods in an effective way.

Roger Manning Treasurer

26 March 2016

The Church in Binley Woods
Receipts & Payments Account - General Fund

UNEXAMINED
Year Ending 31st December 2015

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS			
2014		2015		2015	2014
£		£		£	£
0.00	Junior Church	0.00	Printing, Post and Stat.	253.00	455.12
3943.59	Weekly Offerings	4461.40	Childrens' resources	71.50	31.50
107.28	Other Income	14.74	Prospects	50.00	28.90
101.5	- Alpha donations	178.00	Young People Work	112.00	144.00
0.00	Freedom in Christ Donations	479.20	Holiday Club	900.00	886.50
210.00	Other Regular giving	60.00			
22.18	Interest	19.28	AVA/Music	179.92	136.48
11910.00	Monthly Giving inc Gift Aid	11210.00	Laptop & projector	883.27	
675.00	Giving Via CAF	900.00	Insurances	157.23	157.23
6229.00	Other Gift Aid	6578.00	Socials & Refreshments	0.00	25.00
5625.17	Tax Refund	6237.49	Room Hire	1,752.00	1,687.00
350.00	Donations	5270.00	Communion	0.00	42.00
			Bibles, Books & Booklets	65.00	33.50
410.00	Holiday Club Subs	429.00	Preachers Exp.	118.00	332.50
156.00	Holiday Club Donations	190.00	Teaching Weekend	0.00	0.00
			Annual Subscriptions	100.98	118.00
			Training	0.00	0.00
697.09	Pension Contrib. Refund	0.00	Ministers Salary (inc SSP).	11,100.00	2,969.45
			- NI & Superann.	0.00	0.00
30436.81	Total income General Fund	36,027.11	Ministers Expenses.- Church Travel	29.70	0.00
			- Training (inc travel to college)	1,012.80	237.50
350.00	Open Door Contribution (Tfr)	350.00	- Other (inc recruit/removals)	0.00	301.95
			B.U.Assembly	0.00	0.00
0.00	6.58 Contribution (Tfr)	0.00			
144.00	Youth Fund Contrib. re 6.58	112.00	Manse - interest	7,908.60	7,780.08
			- phones & broadband	0.00	239.81
1000.00	Legacy		- water rates	280.90	110.23
			- other - Gas/Alarm servicing	78.00	72.00
31930.81	Total Income (inc transfers)	36489.11	- Council Tax	1,896.25	852.14
			- Other	0.00	0.00
			MRF Contribution	400.00	400.00
			Pastoral Support	0.00	0.00
			Miscellaneous	216.72	167.20
			- Alpha		417.82
			- Christingles	48.25	70.77
			- Messy Church	161.52	42.71
			- Freedom in Christ	580.89	
			-Friday TG - resources etc	90.20	0.00
			Wider work - Church Funds		
			- Overseas Mission – CMS	900.00	900.00
			- HMF Contribution	900.00	900.00
			-Other tithes	900.00	900.00
			Parish Share Contribution	900.00	900.00
			Special Services	72.00	121.30
			Total Payments - General Fund	32,118.73	21,460.69
			Village Hall Car Park Contribution	1,000.00	
			Legacy tfr to Reserves		1000.00
			Receipts Greater than Payments	3,370.38	9,470.12
31,930.81		36489.11		36,489.11	31,930.81

The Church in Binley Woods

UNEXAMINED

0.00

Statement of Assets at 31st December 2015

Fund Balances	Balances	Recd	Transfers	Paid	Balances	Bank Reconciliation 31/12/15	£
	1/1/15	£	+	-	31/12/15		
	£	£	£	£	£		
General Funds	20078.70	36027.11	462.00	400.00	32468.77	23699.04	
Building Fund	3884.30					3884.30	Barclays Community A/C 2927.48
Manse Repairs Fund	2628.39	0.00	400.00		176.80	2851.59	
Reserves	1030.00				30.00	1000.00	CAF Bank 34125.96
Sunday School	50.00					50.00	
Youth Work Fund	2641.39	300.00		112.00		2829.39	Less Unpresented cheques 3214.89
Reach	139.14					139.14	
Open Door	193.33	556.40		350.00		399.73	Plus banking after date 328.90
6.58	6.26	0.00			0.00	6.26	
College Fees Fund	-980	4,120.00			3820.00	-680.00	
Contras	0.00	3327.21			3339.21	-12.00	
	<u>29671.51</u>	<u>44330.72</u>	<u>862.00</u>	<u>862.00</u>	<u>39834.78</u>	<u>34167.45</u>	
							Debtor (Gift Aid etcTax) 5039.43
							Liabilities 0.00

Other Assets

The Manse is owned by the Coventry Diocese, and is thus not an asset of the Church. The Church owns an overhead projector & screen, amplification equipment and items used in worship services such as hymn books, banners, a communion set, a lectern etc. Tax refund on gift aid 6/4/15- 31/12/15 has still to be claimed and will be shown in 2016 accounts. Tax claimable on giving to 31/12/15 is included under debtors.

The Accounts and Statements of Assets set out above and overleaf relating to the year ended 31st December 2015 were approved by the Church Meeting on 21 April 2016

Signed

Treasurer

Summary of Independent Examiners Report

In accordance with the provisions of Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Assets of the Church in Binley Woods, set out overleaf and above relating to the year ended 31st December 2015. The procedures performed in this examination do not constitute an audit.

I confirm that the Account and Statement of Assets accord with the accounting records of the church and that such records satisfy the requirements of the Act. I am not aware of any matter to which attention needs to be drawn in order to obtain a proper understanding of the Account and Statement of Assets. Where necessary the detail of my formal report is set out on a separate sheet.

Signed

Wider Work Giving	2015	Other Major Giving Through Church Accounts in 2015	£
	£	Coventry City Mission	Loose Change 175.79
Church Missionary Society	900.00		Birthday Scheme 105.00
Home Mission Fund	900.00		2015 Xmas card 65.26
Parish Share Contrib.	900.00		2014 Xmas Card 15.00
The Light House Counselling	180.00		
African Pastors Fellowship	180.00		
Coventry Haven	180.00	Nepal Earthquake	600.00
Global Care	180.00	Global Care in memory of Christine Haywood	81.00
A little bit of HOPE	180.00	Markhams 2015 India Visit	135.00
	<u>3600.00</u>	Christian Aid – Concert	540.00
Special Offerings: Songs of Praise		Christian Aid Donations	20.00
Coventry City Mission	72.00	Open Doors – the Persecuted Church	132.00
		Open Doors Syria Appeal	267
		Prospects Easter Saturday for National Funds	320.51
		Prospects Autumn Appeal	385.65
		BMS Harvest – Fathers House Nepal	424.00

Note

The Minister's salary in 2015 was pro rata to that recommended by the Baptist Union i.e. £21,700. His basic contract is 0.5 of F/T., The Church In Binley Woods is fully responsible for salary, and other employment costs. In the light of this Coventry Diocese has agreed that while the Church makes no call on diocesan funds it will not be assessed for a contribution to parish share and payments towards this are on a voluntary basis The payroll function is undertaken directly by the Church.

Lionheart Holiday Club 2015	Income	£	Payments	£
Cost to Church Budget	341.00		Team Costs	810.00
	Subscriptions	429.00		
	Donations	130.00	Room Hire	90.00
		<u>559.00</u>		<u>900.00</u>

The Church in Binley Woods
ACTUALS 2015 & DRAFT BUDGET 2016

DRAFT BUDGET

RECEIPTS	Budget 2015 £	Actual 2015 £	Budget 2016 £
Weekly Offerings	3500.00	4,461.40	4350.00
Other Income	100.00	14.74	50.00
- Funeral Fees		178.00	
Contributions for HMF & Parish Share	200.00	0.00	0.00
Holiday Club Fees	700.00	429.00	650.00
-Donations		190.00	
Open Door Contribution	250.00	350.00	500.00
			0.00
Interest	20.00	19.28	15.00
Monthly Gift Aid & Standing Orders	13000.00	11,210.00	12500.00
Other Gift Aid & CAF	8000.00	7,478.00	7500.00
Donations	300.00	5,270.00	350.00
Freedom in Christ Donations/ Fruitfulness		479.20	50
6.58 Contribution	75.00	0.00	50.00
Youth Fund Contribution re 6:58	100.00	112.00	160.00
Tax Refund	5600.00	6,237.49	6200.00
Other Regular Giving	360.00	60.00	120.00
General Funds	32205.00	36,489.11	32495.00
	32205.00	36,489.11	32495.00
From balances	-175.00	From Balances	799.00
Total General Funds	32030.00	36,489.11	33294.00
Other Funds			
Open Door		556.40	
Prospects		0.00	
Reserves		0.00	
Six58		0.00	
Building Fund		0.00	
Youth Work Fund		300.00	
Manse Repairs Fund		400.00	
College Fees Fund		4,120.00	5,376.40
Total Income Church Funds	32030.00	41,865.51	33294.00

Notes to Budget

- a) The budget for 2016 has been prepared on the basis of the employment of a p/t minister working 50% of full time . For 2016 on-costs continue to be lower because Employment Allowance cancels out Employer's NI. Pension contributions are included for 3 months as auto-enrolment starts from October.. This year a projection for 2017 has not been made in view of ongoing discussions on the use of Christine's legacy. The leadership team and the treasurer will be working on a new timetable for budgeting in the autumn of 2016.
- b) In respect of 2016 the budget represents a carrying forward of current patterns of activity with an addition for Messy Church. There is also a provision for the costs of a small group programme.
- c) The expenditure budget includes provisions which allow for expenditure that may not be needed in full although they are based on experience. The budget allows a modest increase in activity. Overall there may be a small underspend against the expenditure budget.
- d) The figures for gift-aid tax refund include tax reclaimed on cash offerings and small cash donations.
- e) The provision for activities such as Messy Church cover any specific expenditure or resources. Costs for room hire and printing and stationary etc. are not separated out from the general headings.
- f) Our wider work budget is normally set at 10% of our total income to the general fund in the previous year. However in the light of the overall positive financial position I have proposed that we are a little more generous with our wider work budget which is included at about 11.5%

Roger Manning, Treasurer.

25 March 2016

The Church in Binley Woods : Draft Budget 2016

includes Actual Expenditure 2015 and Draft Budget Expenditure for 2016

PAYMENTS	Budget 2015 £	Actual 2015 £	Budget 2016 £
Printing, Post and Stat.-(inc photocopier)	350.00	253.00	350.00
Children & Young People- resources	50.00	71.50	100.00
- Youth Work	250.00	112.00	200.00
Prospects	70.00	50.00	70.00
Holiday Club	1,000.00 (net £350)	900.00 (£341 net)	1,000.00 (net £350)
AVA/Music/ Worship Materials	150.00	179.92	200.00
Laptop & Projector		883.27	
Friday TG Resources etc.	50.00	90.20	0.00
Insurance	160.00	157.23	170.00
Socials & Refreshments	50.00	0.00	50.00
Room Hire	1,800.00	1,752.00	1,950.00
Communion - expenses	20.00	0.00	40.00
Teaching Weekend	250.00		250.00
Bibles, Books & Booklets	75.00	65.00	75.00
Visiting Preachers Exp.	200.00	118.00	180.00
Training	100.00	0.00	100.00
	4575	4832.12	4735
Ministers Salary	10,850.00 a)	11,100.00	11,100.00 a)
SSP		0.00	
" NI	0.00	0.00	0.00
" Superann.	1,535.00	0.00	550.00
Ministers Exp.-Travel	200.00	29.70	100.00
- Training(inc College travel)	1,300.00	1,012.80	950.00
- Other	200.00 d)	0.00	200.00 d)
B.U. Assembly	200.00	0.00	200.00
	14285	12142.50	13100
Manse - interest	7,950.00	7,908.60	8,004.00
- phones and broadband	100.00	0.00	150.00
- water charges	150.00	280.90	300.00
Gas & Alarm service	180.00	78.00	125.00
Council Tax	1880.00	1,896.25	1970.00
Manse Repairs Fund Contrib.	400.00 d)	400.00	400.00 d)
Other		0.00	
	10660	10563.75	10949
Annual Subscriptions	100.00	100.98	110.00
Pastoral Support	100.00	0.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Items	200.00	216.72	200.00
Freedom in Christ/ Fruitfulness		580.89	50.00
Christingle		48.25	50
Messy Church	100.00	161.52	200.00 b)
	500	1108.36	710
Wider Work - Church Budget			
Overseas Mission (CMS)	900.00	900.00	950.00 f)
HMF Contribution	900.00	900.00	950.00
Parish Share Contribution	900.00	900.00	950.00
Other Causes	900.00	900.00	950.00
Special services -CCM	3600	72.00	3800
	33620.00	32118.73	
Car Park Contribution from Balances	1000.00	1,000.00	
Total General Fund	34,620.00	33,118.73	33,294.00
Building Fund		0.00	
Open Door		350.00	
Manse Repairs Fund		176.80	
Youth Work		112.00	
Six58		0.00	
College Fees Fund		3820.00	
Prospects		0.00	
Reserves		30.00	
		4,488.80	
Total All Funds:	34,620.00	37,607.53	33,294.00
Av Weekly Offerings to meet budget (Services plus Covenants & Gift Aid)	£478.08 *	£446.33	£470.58 *
Gen. Funds Expenditure less than budget by		£501.27	£24.24 **
Expenditure less than than income by		£3,370.38	* Average to meet projected income
Income more than Budget for income by		£4,284.11	** Extra above projected income to clear deficit

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

There is a Christian Bookshop in the Arcade in Coventry, which is well worth a visit and has a good choice of Bible Study Notes.

We are already collecting, for some members of our Church Family, the Daily Notes shown below.

Every day With Jesus – each booklet covers two months

Daily Bread – each booklet covers three months

New Daylight – each booklet covers four months

All of these have a daily reading with helpful teaching

From time to time, we have bought extra copies of each of the above to give people the opportunity to have a free trial. We will continue to do this. If you have found them helpful and would like to purchase them in the future speak to Pasang or Jan O.

We would be delighted to collect them for you.

School Links

We have strong links with the School and as an important part of our regular prayer for the whole village we pray for God to bless the School. We pray also that the children may have hearts and minds for learning and that His Spirit may bring health and understanding into their lives and the lives of all who work or volunteer there.

Roger Manning continues in the important role as Chair of the Governors. This is a big commitment and carries a lot of responsibility. Thank you Roger for all the years you have given to the School.

Margaret Emmerson and Dorothy Coleman go into classrooms and volunteer their help. Margaret has been doing this for twenty three years. She listens to readers in Year 2 and reads stories and shares books with the Reception children. She says that she feels privileged and enjoys seeing the improvement in the children's reading. This link between Margaret, Dorothy and the School is precious and we thank them for it.

Jonny has been into School on several occasions, to take Assembly, giving him the chance to get to know the children and for them to get to know him. He has also been in to Year 3 for a question and answer class on Christianity. He found this good fun and lively.

In July the Lionheart Team went into School to take an Assembly, to promote our Holiday Bible Week. This provides a continuing link with several of the children who regularly attend Lionheart and also gives another opportunity for all the children to hear about Jesus. The School supports us by sending out and collecting in some of the application forms for this. We are grateful for their help.

In November, Jonny and the Year 6 children combined together to present the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Village Green. Every child contributed their thoughts about the kind of world they wish to live in and their appreciation of the sacrifices made by people in the past. It is a moving and thoughtful service.

Shân Dobinson and Linda Harbour continue to lead our teenage group 6.58 which meets at the Youth Club on the School site. This is another precious link.

Janet Outhwaite