



***making Christ known in the community of Holmes
Chapel so that all can share in the joy of God's love***

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – 22nd April 2018 Reports for the year 2017

INTRODUCTION

As always it is a huge pleasure to introduce the APCM reports booklet. I always find it a great encouragement, and I hope you do too. We are living in an increasingly secular society which includes Holmes Chapel. Within that culture, as your vicar I feel that all we can do is be faithful to our faith and our Saviour within our Parish. What you are about to read says to me that we are being faithful. We are going against the tide of today's culture but the gospel – the Good News of God's love in Christ needs to be heard and proclaimed and I am so glad that we at St. Luke's are doing that by word but more importantly by action. So, let us be encouraged that the great faith that has been handed down to us we are handing down to the next generation.

I do hope you will be able to join us for the APCM on 22nd April at 9.30am.

Your friend and Vicar

Paul

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION FOR APRIL 2018

The Annual revision of the Church Electoral Roll prepared in 2013 was undertaken between 4th March and 1st April. Notices about the revision have been on the Church Noticeboard, in the Church Magazine and in the Sunday Link Sheet. The updated roll will be available to review in church for errors and omissions from Sunday 8th April, two weeks prior to the APCM on April 22nd, 2018. A new roll will be prepared for 2019.

Wendy Bond - Electoral Roll Officer

FABRIC GOODS AND ORNAMENTS

The condition of the fabric of our Grade I listed church building and of the church goods and ornaments are reasonable, given their general age. All significant items on the church inventory were accounted for in the annual stocktaking. The required annual maintenance has been carried out to the organ, church clock, fire extinguishers, lightning conductors and the two church boilers. All portable electrical appliances in Church and in the Church Hall have again been tested for electrical safety and either approved for use or replaced with new appliances.

Land maintenance. Our contractors, Clive Nash Landscapes, continue to maintain the main churchyard, the border outside the church hall and the Knutsford Road churchyard to a proper standard. Volunteer hand tidying of the cremated ashes area will continue during 2018. Following some storm damage in January 2018, a tree was removed from our Knutsford Road churchyard and, at the same time, we elected to have all other specimen trees reduced in height

Chancel pew reordering. Investigations, discussion and planning have been going on for a considerable period and it was agreed that the raised area would extend slightly to better provide

a more flexible area for chorister/musician seating on chairs and to also relocate the pulpit. Following the faculty application, The Diocesan Advisory Committee approved our plans and work started in November 2017 and was completed in December 2017. New chairs, lectern and priest's desk were delivered in early 2018 and work progresses to fine tune the practical layout and usage of all the furniture.

Church sound system. The present system, whilst functional, may require upgrading in the future. Our speakers have limited potential and have presented occasional feedback issues. In 2017 we made some slight changes to the sound system to alleviate feedback and we have also made slight changes to our hearing loop system. We have decided to delay any significant changes to speakers or sound system until we have further established the music group/choir and to better understand if there exists any need for fundamental changes.

New project (formerly West end entrance and new toilet facilities). This discussion has continued to be developed through 2017. As there are many differing aims and objectives on this subject, we have taken the decision to 'go back to the drawing board' and really think about our longer term aims for St Luke's in Holmes Chapel. To this end, each PCC member has individually considered this subject and submitted their thoughts on new projects. All these submissions have been consolidated and shared with the PCC. That document essentially captures our project brief and we have now shared and discussed the content with our new Church Architects, Bench Associates. At present, Bench Associates are working on some high-level concept designs for us and when available, these will be shared with the PCC. This project is still very much in the early stages and no firm plans are available. Once the PCC has reviewed the conceptual designs, together with any associated consequences of those plans, these will of course be shared with a much wider audience. It is expected that, irrespective of project scope, extensive fund raising would be required to enable the project to proceed.

Church Lighting. Following our assessment in early 2017, we have confirmed we will be installing an LED solution for our lighting. This solution significantly reduces our energy consumption and ongoing maintenance. More importantly, this solution will also eliminate our significant safety issue of having to use a long ladder to replace current light bulbs. The faculty application will be submitted once all associated paper work has been compiled from our lighting consultants. Inevitably, the electric circuits may require changes so that they continue to meet the regulations pertaining to a Grade 1 listed building.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV). We have decided to install a discreet CCTV system in church. St Luke's operates an open church policy every day and this system will provide a level of security and safety for our building and for anyone visiting church.

Knutsford Road Churchyard extension. Following the consecration of our new parcel of land adjacent to the North Side of the existing Knutsford Road churchyard, the boundary planting is becoming more established. Plans have been drawn up for the layout within the extension and quotations have been sought to install a path and to also prepare the area for cremated remains. It is expected that this work will be completed by mid-2018.

Railings painted. All church railings around the church have been rubbed down and repainted.

**Alastair Cragg, Jayne Weaver, Val Cragg, Alan Rickards, Stephen Haigh –
Churchwardens and Assistant Churchwardens**

CHURCHWARDENS

With Tim Fryer completing his time as Warden, we were delighted that Jayne Weaver accepted the role of becoming a full Churchwarden in addition to her continuing to be the Parish Giving Officer.

The Wardens team has met in the Massey Room each month, along with the Vicar, Curate, Reader and Treasurer. We have asked others to join us as necessary during the year when their expertise was required.

We are all well aware that we could not fulfil our duties without the support we receive from so many people throughout the church and beyond.

We have been ably supported by our team of Sidesmen, including the younger members, who are welcoming and supportive through all our services. This extends beyond Sunday and Wednesday services to cover funerals, baptism, weddings, Christingle services and any other special service through the year.

Our Church Hall is an important part of St. Luke's presence in the community as well as being an essential resource for Church activities. An understanding has been reached with the Co-op and parish council, for which we thank both, and car parking has been a little easier using the limited permit scheme for those Hall users who need to stay longer than the restricted time.

Val Cragg continues to provide our link to the PCC Church Hall sub-committee, chaired by John Murfin, who also continues to be responsible for the letting of the Hall. We are particularly grateful to everyone on the Hall sub-committee for all they do (often behind the scenes) to ensure the Hall presents a positive image and runs smoothly and efficiently.

The PCC is a registered charity and must operate with the necessary transparency and governance – we will continue to review our financial and policy arrangements, including data protection and health and safety.

We thank Steve Smith in his continuing role as PCC Secretary for all that he has contributed both within the PCC and in the moving forward of our complex projects to better enhance and develop our church.

We are also very grateful for everyone who provides their time and efforts to keep the church looking and sounding at its best – Jean Paton for the beautiful laundered linen; Michelle Carter, our cleaner; our teams of brass-cleaners and flower-arrangers; Wendy Macdonald, our Music Director; our choir and musicians; and Mervyn Harrison and our team of bell-ringers.

Grateful thanks also go to Mike and Barbara Street for providing our Harvest Sheaf and to Ann and Alan Lane for our Christmas tree.

At this time we would like to pass on our special thanks to Alan Rickards as he will be stepping down from the Wardens team, and we are delighted that he will continue to be our Editor of our splendid Church Magazine.

As well as the efforts of those with official positions, such as our Genesis leaders, St. Luke's depends on those serving in Church committees and groups, volunteering for specific tasks or working on ecumenical groups like Churches Together and Christian Aid. Your regular commitment ensures St. Luke's remains an active and caring Church within our local community. Thank you all!

**Alastair Cragg, Jayne Weaver, Val Cragg, Alan Rickards, Stephen Haigh –
Churchwardens and Assistant Churchwardens**

CHURCH HALL

Annual Accounts: Our overall income has reduced slightly this year, by approximately £500. Last year (2016) our income includes an 'overpayment' for electricity generation by the solar panels because it covered an 18-month period; the total payments for 2017 are £483, a 'reduction' of £294. Bookings were down slightly (by ~£350), but this was largely offset by an increase in takings on the Thursday coffee mornings. Expenditure this year is similar to 2016 with no major outlay this year. In overall financial terms, the Church Hall made a surplus of £2,921.

Bookings: There have been no major changes during 2017. Unfortunately, due to their age profile, the U3A group are no longer using the Massey Room as they have decided to use only ground floor facilities or first floor facilities where a lift is available. The coffee mornings on Thursdays continue to run very successfully thanks to the team of volunteers organised by Mrs Ford. The car scheme run by Christian Communicare continues to provide transport to the church Hall on Thursday mornings for those who need it.

Maintenance: There have been no major maintenance activities at the hall this year. Minor items completed this year include the installation of a water saver device in the men's toilet and electric hand dryers in all three toilet areas. We have also provided six upholstered chairs with arms which are proving very popular. We continue our regular testing of the fire alarm system and visual check of all safety equipment. The fire extinguishers are checked annually for operational efficiency by our contractor; similarly the portable electrical appliances are tested annually. Both inspections are as required by Health and Safety regulations. The annual Hall Inventory check was carried out in May 2017.

General: I wish to record my thanks to all Hall committee members – Mary Ford, Graham Ratcliffe, Judy & Derek Copley, Val Cragg (representing the churchwardens), Bob Monks, Alison Dale and Barbara Street. Many thanks also to Mrs Broderick, our caretaker

John Murfin - Chairman, Church Hall Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council proceedings – The Parochial Church Council of Church Hulme has met on six occasions to conduct general business and financial matters in support of the Vicar and the Church's mission in the parish. In the course of this business, the Council has received and discussed reports from the Churchwardens, Hon. Treasurer, Deanery Synod representatives and other Church officials on a variety of issues, including those summarised in the Fabric Goods and Ornaments and Churchwardens' Reports above. As of 8th Jan 2018, the Council has 22 members whose names are listed on the notice-board in the church porch. Council meetings have been chaired by the Vicar or the vice-Chairman, Alastair Cragg. Church Council meeting Agendas and Minutes are published on the on the PCC documents page of the church website (www.holmeschapelchurch.com) and a paper copy is available at the back of church.

Annual Parish Meetings – The Annual Meeting to elect Churchwardens for the coming year and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (to elect other Church officials and conduct other business) will be held consecutively in church on Sunday 22nd April, 2018 at 9.30am within a service of Holy Communion. Election nomination forms are available at the back of church.

Annual Accounts - A summary of the Church Accounts for the calendar year 2017, prepared by the Council's Hon. Treasurer, Mr William Hall, will be available for inspection in church from Sunday 8th April. The full Church Accounts will be available to inspect in church from Sunday 15th April.

Steve Smith - Hon. Secretary, Church Council

DEANERY SYNOD

The Congleton Deanery Synod met only three times in 2017.

On 27th February it met at Elworth when the Rural Dean, Dr David Page invited parishes to provide details of their recent achievements and future plans. Our news from St Luke's related to the confirmation service in January which was conducted by Bishop Libby who also consecrated the new land in Knutsford Road as an extension to our graveyard. The plans to re-order the chancel in the church were also outlined to other members of the Synod.

The General Synod celebrated the period of 500 years since the Reformation which resulted from Martin Luther's writings in 1517 and welcomed Bishop Matti Repo of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England to share in those celebrations. Considerable interest on the life and beliefs of Martin Luther appeared in the media during the summer.

In February a project was started by Canon Chris Birkett entitled "Set God's People Free" which explains that a new alphabet is required if the Church is to be open and welcoming to everyone rather than just a few. It was recognised that our Christian vision is too small. We need to be more zealous in our expression of God's kingdom and equip both clergy and laity for whole life discipleship.

The third meeting was at Barthomley on 11th October and was primarily concerned with the election of new officers to serve for the next 4 years. It was announced that the Parish Share would rise again by 2.5% in 2018, though despite similar increases in recent few years it appears that 94% of parishes are able to pay their Share in full. The Church Commissioners have adopted a new approach for the allocation of money for mission work. Instead of each diocese receiving a small amount, parishes are encouraged to bid for money to cover larger projects. Bids in our diocese are currently in hand to relieve urban deprivation in Runcorn, Stockport and Crewe.

William Hall and Barbara Smith - Deanery Synod Representatives

CHURCH GROUPS

Bell Ringing

I usually begin this report by mentioning how important it is that new ringers step forward to ensure our bells can continue to ring out over coming years. Another year has passed with no "new blood" and existing ringers another year older.

You may have seen notices around the village concerning the nationwide drive to commemorate the centenary of the end of WW1 by "replacing" the 1400 bell ringers who lost their lives in the war with 1400 new ringers in 2018. Obviously 1400 would be a little more than we could manage but one or two would be nice.

We currently have eleven ringers who between them do ensure that our bells ring for Sunday morning service without fail. To help celebrate the WW1 centenary we hope to take part in the nationwide "simultaneous" ringing of bells at 7pm on Armistice Day, Sun 11 November.

As usual, if anyone wants to find out more about this ancient and rewarding art then please come along to one of our Friday practice nights.

Mervyn Harrison - Tower Captain

Fairtrade

During 2017/18 we held a Fairtrade stall on the second Sunday of most months in the Church Hall after the 10am service. Fairtrade Fortnight was marked by a special Fairtrade parish breakfast which raised over £75. This was donated to Traidcraft Exchange. A Fairtrade breakfast in Brereton, organised by Fiona Pulle, resulted in over £200 worth of sales!

The big change this year was the way we procure our Traidcraft, Fairtrade goods. Lesley Mosely, who had previously supplied goods on sale or return, moved away. Jan Rayner and Ann Jack stepped up to the task and we now order our goods directly from Traidcraft. We also work closely with Angela Gilmore of St Luke's Goostrey and Pauline Whitehurst who runs the stall at Goostrey Methodist Church.

The changes in the way we operate make it difficult to calculate our turnover for the year but it must be approaching £1500, roughly equivalent to last year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of St Luke's and of Holmes Chapel for their continued support and remarkable generosity, with special thanks to Jan, Ann, Pauline and Angela and our loyal regular customers.

Gareth Griffin – Fairtrade Co-ordinator

Floristry – altar flowers

Over a period of many years (and I have been here for 50!) flowers have had a special place in our church. When I was first interested in helping, I had to wait my turn and go on a list of volunteers to join the weekly flower rota! More recently, volunteer numbers have fallen and we have moved to a fortnightly rota given that the flowers often last well with minimal attention. This fortnightly rota is working well and is far better for everyone.

At festival occasions such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, in addition to altar flowers, a wider band of us come together to decorate the seven window ledges, Lady Chapel, pulpit and font – and

very fine it always looks. We welcome extra help from anyone who can spare an hour or two – you really don't need to be an expert or use the most expensive flowers – novices are made very welcome!

Suitable vases, containers etc are always provided in our cupboard on the south side of church. No flowers are needed during the six weeks of Lent or the four weeks of Advent.

We enjoy our time together making simple arrangements. Anyone can have a try with guaranteed, great results, very much appreciated by the congregation and visitors. Just ask us if you are unsure what is involved in joining our team adding to the visual beauty of St Luke's.

Ann Stafford and Anne Lane

GENESIS – Sunday School

'Genesis' continues to be a place for young people, 2-11 years, to explore faith through craft, music, drama and friendship. We have been delighted to welcome three new families to Genesis this year but at the same time we had to bid farewell to Dawn, Paul, Matilda and Natalie as they settle into their new life in Canada. Our numbers remain stable at 20 children in attendance and six teachers. Our aims at Genesis remain the same:

- to provide a regular pattern of worship and teaching to the children in our congregation.
- to reach out to families in the wider community

Our support of Church events and ecumenical activities includes:

- **Within Church services:** we have contributed to Family services providing music, prayer and Bible readings. We have also enjoyed taking part in other services such as on Mothering Sunday, 'The star that couldn't shine' Nativity service and our Christingle and Crib Services.
- **Outside Church services,** Genesis led the Operation Christmas Child campaign, hosted an Open Church at the Christmas market evening and supported the St Luke's Music event 'Striking a Chord' working alongside the Holmes Chapel primary schools to celebrate music in Holmes Chapel. In addition, four families connected to Genesis enjoyed participating in our Parish weekend at Willersley in September.
- **Prayer networking scheme,** Genesis continues to support this parish scheme. We network the children in Genesis and their families as well as each other.

Our success and mission within Genesis is dependent on team work, encouragement, enthusiasm and faith. Thank you to the team of teachers, children and parents that inspire us and the Church congregation and leaders for their encouragement.

Let's now continue to look forward to the year ahead and embrace our Church mission, "Making Christ known in the community of Holmes Chapel so that all can share in the joy of God's love."

Fiona Pullé - on behalf of Genesis

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian organisation of 4 million members whose aim is helping families around the world.

Here at St Luke's we are successfully run by a committee and have 34 members who meet on either the 2nd Tuesday evening or the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Due to our ageing congregation we now have a small group of members who are no longer able to join us for one reason or another but still need our prayers and thoughts, and these are prayed for at every

meeting. We have a Prayer Circle so that if any members are ill or need our prayers the Committee is able to contact all members to let them know. As well as this we all have prayer Partners who we pray for throughout the year, and at Christmas we buy a card and present for them.

We have established firm friendship and contact with other MU groups outside our Deanery area – such as Knutsford, St John's, High Legh, Henbury and Holy Trinity Church, Northwich.

We aim to help families in our own Diocese in as many ways as possible. Some members help in the baby changing tent at the Cheshire Show. Others knit premature baby items for the Neo-natal department at Leighton Hospital

We also raise money for our National and Overseas MU charities through collection boxes and our annual Strawberry Supper in June. We sell books and have cake stalls to raise money for "Away From It All" holidays, for those families who cannot afford a holiday.

We are a charitable organisation and have had many interesting visiting speakers and demonstrations as well as good social gatherings.

If anyone is interested in joining us they will be very welcome to come to any of our meetings.

Carole Elliott and Dorothy Wood – Branch Secretary and Treasurer

Music

Another Music Festival weekend was organised for a weekend in May, following a similar pattern to the previous year. On the Saturday morning music groups from Holmes Chapel Primary School performed in church, whilst in the Hall a recording studio and drum workshop took place. The evening concert included items from the Slipper Band and Community Choir as well as some solos and was followed by refreshments in the Hall. On the Sunday there was a Songs of Praise service in the morning. Afternoon Tea with musical accompaniment from several young soloists completed the weekend.

The reordering work in the church chancel, including the removal of the choir stalls, has created a more flexible space for choir and music group during services and also for concerts. As part of this change, the choir is no longer robed. We have a choir of twelve regular singers and a number of additional singers available for services requiring a larger choir.

The music group of five instrumentalists plays at the 10am service on each 3rd Sunday and on some 1st Sundays. David Taylor, Peter Cotton and Stephen Haigh assist with playing the organ.

The St Luke's Community Choir continues to meet weekly with about 25 people, singing a variety of light music. The Community Choir performed at Capesthorne Hall's Christmas event. In February 2018, a professional vocal coach led one of the choir's rehearsals, working on singing technique with some enjoyable exercises.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the music at St Luke's.

Wendy Macdonald - Director of Music

Networking

Our Prayer Networking Scheme has been running for nine years embracing around 200 people connected to St. Luke's Church family. Each networker prays daily for a small group of people/families, supplementing the pastoral work provide by our Vicar and ministers. Our Genesis staff complete our networking with their prayers for the children in their groups and for their families.

Our prayers encourage us to look out for and care for those we network, so we are aware when they may not be in church for a week or two or if we do not see them about in the street or in the shops. Each networker is sustained by the daily prayer of another within the Church family. We belong to each other and to our Church through this continuous prayer.

Networkers make a difference to the lives of those around them by persevering with their prayers and offering practical support as necessary. We still need more networkers to keep our promise to care for everyone in the church family.

Many church family members face challenging personal circumstances, often as a result of advancing years. During this last year church family members were careful to tell our Vicar about others infirm or sick at home or in hospital. That is clear evidence of love and care.

We are especially grateful to Paul and Anne, our team of Churchwardens and PCC members for their active support and involvement.

Judith Hall and Jean Paton - Network Leader and Co-ordinator

Social Committee

The first event of the Social Committee in 2017 was a Tea Dance, organised by Anne Smith with help given from other members of the Congregation. This raised £65 which went directly to the Church Funds.

On Good Friday refreshments and Hot Cross Buns were provided for the congregation from the three village Churches who attended the Ecumenical Service.

In April we served wine and provided canapes following the evening Music Event held in the church as part of the Music weekend.

In early July an afternoon tea was held in the vicarage garden. The sun shone and there was fun and games for the children and the usual guess the weight of the cake. It was a pleasant relaxing afternoon for those who attended. We were very grateful for the help from members of the congregation both in providing cakes and serving on the day. We raised £188 for our funds.

This year, instead of a Harvest Supper we held a quiz night in October. This was a very successful evening and we raised £140 which was donated to the Holmes Chapel Partnership Dementia-friendly garden project. The Partnership chairman, Stuart Gammon, came along to the evening to explain the project and join the quiz. Our final event of the year was to provide and serve mulled wine and mince pies after the very well attended Christmas Lessons and Carols service in December.

We hope to continue providing these events in 2018. During the year several members of the committee have stepped down and we now only have 5 members. We have been delighted and are very appreciative of the help given to us from members of the congregation for individual events during the year including making cakes, serving food and drink. We would, however, also like to recruit some more members to the committee to help with the planning. We only meet once a year to plan the activities for the year and then again to plan each of the events at the appropriate time. The committee has worked well together and produced some very good ideas, but we would welcome suggestions from other members of the congregation.

Carole Elliott - on behalf of the Social Committee

ECUMENICAL GROUPS

Christian Aid

We have had an active ecumenical Christian Aid Committee in Holmes Chapel for more than 40 years and it is an excellent example of the cooperation between our three churches. Christian Aid, originally known as Christian Reconstruction in Europe, was set up in the 1940s by 41 British and Irish churches to alleviate the suffering of Europeans, no matter what their faith. Christian Aid now works with many partners around the world. It is a major member of the Fairtrade Foundation and the Trade Justice Movement.

January Quiz Night: This annual event was once again well attended, raising £780.

Lent Lunches: These were once again held weekly, throughout Lent and raised just over £1,800. Bread (Roberts Bakery) and fruit (Waitrose), were donated by businesses, while a band of volunteers provided homemade soup and biscuits. A choice of six different soups was offered each week in the hall, plus additional soup was made to takeout to local businesses for two of the six weeks.

Christian Aid Week House-to-House Collections, May 2017: Once again we are indebted to our collectors who raised about £1,400 out of a total village collection of over £5,000.

Christian Aid Service: This was held in May at the Leisure Centre and raised awareness of all the good work undertaken by Christian Aid.

Coffee Morning & Christmas Card Sale, October: This event raised over £900.

We would very much appreciate new members to join us on the committee, especially younger ones!

Margaret Thompson, Sue Wood and Steph Haigh

Churches Together

The group has continued to meet twice a year to organise the events, which are detailed below.

CHURCH UNITY WEEK - We started the year with Church Unity Week, when a prayer meeting was held at the Methodist Church on the Friday. The first Sunday saw our three Ministers exchange pulpits for the Morning services.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS - Around 70 people attended this from all 3 congregations. We followed the usual route around the village centre, stopping five times for a reading, a prayer and a hymn. We had a sound system which made it much better for all to hear the readings.

CHRISTMAS CARD - We designed, printed and distributed the Christmas Card to 3,300 homes in the village and Cranage. We have increased the distribution to include the new developments. Many thanks go to those who helped to pack the cards and those who turned out at the beginning of December to deliver them.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS MARKET - We had a stall on the market. The Committee had agreed that it is important that the Churches are represented at this village event. We distributed a small booklet of the Christmas story to young children and had a game to guess the number of angels on the Christmas tree.

NATIVITY CRIB - The crib and banner were erected on the north side of the Church during Advent and remained in place until the Epiphany.

CHURCHES TOGETHER NOTICE BOARD - The board continues to be updated each week with a poster and weekly bulletins for each Church.

VILLAGE PRAYERS - We continue to meet in the Methodist Church once a month to pray for those who live and work in the village.

WELCOME PACKS - We have started to deliver a Welcome Pack to the new build residents. It comprises a sheet for each Church, which details Service times and activities.

CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE - We joined with the Christian Aid committee to hold a Service at the Leisure centre in May, which included choirs from some of the local schools. There was a presentation by Prof. Richard Baker of Christian Aid.

Pete Shackleton - Co-ordinator for St. Luke's

Focus

Focus is an ecumenical fellowship group which meets at 8:00pm on the second Friday of each month, between September and June, in the Methodist Church Hall. Details may be found in the parish magazine, the Sunday Link, on posters in the Church Hall and in the printed syllabus. All are welcome.

Our 2017/8 session opened in September when we followed Robert Whitehead along the Cumbria Way from Ulverston to Carlisle, passing through the spectacular scenery of the Lake District. Dagmar Barnes returned in October to share the second instalment of her life story. Having escaped from East Germany after World War II, she found herself in Australia working on a sheep farm, before meeting her English husband and relocating to the UK. Early in November, Rev. Philip Robinson of Rostherne explained how the last Lord Egerton of Tatton built a mansion and founded a university in Nakuru. Philip visited Kenya with a group of teachers from Egerton Primary and left us with a lasting impression of the culture of the local community. Later in November, Rev Nick Witham of Biddulph described his interesting career in the Metropolitan Police and explained how he was led to serve as a Methodist minister.

In the New Year, Focus enjoyed a meal at the George and Dragon, taking advantage of the pie option evening. In February, Paul Unwin of Cheshire East Trading Standards shared invaluable advice on how to cope with dodgy traders, scams and cold callers on our doorsteps. March found us spending an enjoyable afternoon at Arighi Bianchi, modelled on the Crystal Palace. Following a sumptuous afternoon tea, Nick and Paul Bianchi entertained us with a talk about the history of the Arighis and Bianchis followed by a tour of the historic store.

You are cordially invited to a presentation on Friday, 20th April by Professor David Watts of the Biomaterials Science Department at Manchester University and St. John's, Wilmslow on 'God, Creation and the Scientific Enterprise'. He leads a project entitled 'Scientists in Congregations' and seeks to promote constructive dialogue between Christians and scientists.

On Saturday, 12th May, Ian Doughty of Congleton Museum will lead an afternoon walk around Congleton entitled 'Water: from Springs to Source of Energy'. This year's programme will conclude on Friday, 8th June with 'A Moment in Time' when Rodger Burgess explains how to research family history.

Barbara Smith – Group Secretary

CHURCH PUBLICATIONS

Facebook page - www.facebook.com/holmeschapelchurch

Our Facebook page, which includes details of services and other events at St Luke's, continues to be widely viewed. Anyone wishing to publicise events at St Luke's on our page is welcome to let me know and I will gladly include it.

As I write this report, 223 people have "liked" the St Luke's Facebook Page. It's interesting to delve deeper into these statistics. Not surprisingly, by far the largest group of people liking our page are located in the UK (207), of which 107 live in Holmes Chapel. Sixteen of the 223 people liking our Facebook presence are located outside the UK from as far afield as Australia, Greece, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Korea, Spain, USA and Vietnam!

Alan Rickards - Facebook page moderator

Parish Magazine

Ten years ago this month, I had just compiled my first ever Parish Magazine, having taken over the editorial duties from Richard Eades. During those ten years the magazine has continued to evolve, and I hope you have enjoyed reading it.

The number of magazine subscriptions fell slightly during the year, so if you do not already have your monthly copy delivered to your door, please consider taking out a subscription by contacting Sue Wood on 01477 534842. Magazines are also available to buy from The Print Room in Church Walk, thanks to the support of David and Marie Bennett.

I couldn't do it all myself and would particularly like to thank Tom and Jos at Cranmore Instant Print in Macclesfield, who continue to provide an excellent printing service - and copious cups of coffee - when I make my monthly visit!

Other people I would like to thank include Lew Riches and Rod Pickles, who drive to Macclesfield each month to collect the finished magazines, Sue Wood, who sorts them into the delivery rounds for her distribution team. However, one of the most important links in the supply chain is the team of 30+ deliverers who ensure that subscribers receive their magazines each month, whatever the weather. Thank you to you all.

Finally, thank you very much to all of you who contribute items for inclusion in the magazine. Other editors, who I meet from time to time, often say that they struggle to get timely contributions to their magazines, so thank you for making my life that little bit easier.

Here's to the next 10 years!

Alan Rickards - Editor of Church Magazine

Sunday Link

Each week St Luke's Sunday Link is published by the PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Church Hulme, Registered Charity No. 1132587; <http://www.holmeschapelchurch.com>. Our own local Sunday Link information is edited on a computer using Microsoft Word and printed on the reverse

of a publication produced in advance by Redemptorist. 150 copies are printed weekly for our congregations. A copy always appears on the Church Hall notice board just on the left inside the main door and another on the Churches Together Notice Board in the village.

The Sunday Link shows services and events taking place from the current Sunday, up to and including the following Sunday. "Looking Ahead" points briefly to major events further ahead in the church calendar.

Most information comes from that supplied for St Luke's Parish Magazine. Church groups such as Genesis, Floralists and Social Committee offer further details as necessary. Ecumenical events appear as they are due, such as activities of Holmes Chapel FOCUS and Churches Together. I am grateful to everyone who gives me the information about forthcoming events.

The vicar provides details of service changes, baptisms and funerals, provided they are available to him before the Link publication deadline of 9.30 pm on a Wednesday evening. Please do your best to respect this deadline which is to allow time for approval by the vicar and a churchwarden as well as time for printing ready for Sunday.

Having edited Sunday Link for many years, I am still interested in finding a Deputy with a view to taking over in due course, subject to approval by the vicar, wardens and PCC. Could it be you? If so, please speak to me on a Sunday or ring me on HC 535 497.

Judith Hall - Editor of Sunday Link

St Luke's Website

www.holmeschapelchurch.com

Our Church website was first launched in September 2009 with the aim of providing up to date on-line information about St Luke's and its mission within the parish and local community. The intention was to supplement rather than replace information in our other established Church communication media like the Parish Magazine and Sunday Link. Typically, there are about 10-12 different users accessing the website daily, some coming from outside the UK.

During the major church roof and tower restoration works the website was used extensively to share information about progress. A second website www.stlukesroof.net was also set up allowing secure online payments by credit or debit card as part of the associated fund-raising activity. This website is still used to help raise funds for other church fabric projects.

As with all websites, the challenge is to keep the information updated and fresh. The home page is updated weekly with information from the Link about coming services and notices. The church diary, registers and rota information are updated monthly and reports from the MU and Church groups are added when provided – so please keep them coming! The move to different software is planned for later in 2018. This should make updating easier and give the site a more modern look and feel adapted for mobile devices.

Steve Smith - Webmaster: scs@nupharms.com
