

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH RADFORD SEMELE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST 2018

“Together we resolve to worship God, to witness and share our faith in Jesus Christ and to serve the community”



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Radford Semele Parochial Church Council Proceedings 2018

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St. Nicholas Radford Semele, in the Diocese of Coventry, share responsibility with the Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Martin Green for the mission, worship, and pastoral ministry of the Church of England in the ecclesiastical parish of Radford Semele. In addition, it has responsibility for the maintenance and provision of equipment and materials to enable the work of the Church to continue. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC –

Ex Officio:

Name	Position	Dates
Rev. Martin Green	Priest in Charge & Chairman	
Barbara Fowkes	Churchwarden	October 2016
Kari Molesworth	Treasurer	

Deanery Synod

Margherita Dove	April 2017 – April 2020
Barbara Fowkes	April 2017 – April 2020

Elected Parochial Representatives of the Laity

Simon Shepherd	PCC Member	April 2016 – April 2019
Jean Loveridge	PCC Member	April 2018 – April 2021
Rachel Buckingham	PCC Member	April 2017 – April 2020
Lisa Laking	PCC Secretary	April 2016 – April 2019
James Fleuty	PCC Member	Resigned September 2018

Other

Fiona Dyson	Electoral Roll	May 2015
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Priest in Charge

Rev. Martin Green
The Vicarage
1 Manor Road
Bishops Itchington
Southam
CV47 2QJ

Bankers Independent

Lloyds Bank Plc
73 The Parade
Leamington Spa
CV32 4AB

Examiner

Weavers Chartered Accountants
18 Queens Road
Coventry
CV1 3EG

PCC PROCEEDINGS 2018

Changes in Personnel and Practice

There were few changes on the PCC in 2018:-

James Fleuty stood down as PCC member; we are very grateful and appreciative of his contribution and hard work.

PCC Vision & Church Life

This year we continued the focus on our response to the 8 qualities, working with our mentor Rev Steve Hood. Some of these responses are shaping our teaching programme.

The PCC have met 7 times in 2018 with each PCC meeting starting with a Bible reflection, which leads us in to our discussions.

Threads craft mornings have been continuing along the same pattern, and provide a useful place of company and chat.

We have continued to support Carriers of Hope, CORD, Falcon Camps, Fosse Food Bank and SOCS and we have had visiting preachers throughout the year to whom we are very grateful. We have continued to look at a teaching programme based around the 8 Qualities.

We held a family evening following our Harvest Service, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

We hosted three training evenings and a concert with Paul Bell.

Messy Church continues to happen on an ad hoc basis, but it is good fun and supplemented by the deanery

Massive Messy events held in Southam. Messy Church is advertised through the school and Sunbeams preschool to try to encourage more families in. Radford Rendezvous is held once a month and draws in good numbers from the village. Grateful thanks to the team of people that organise this so diligently. This is great service to the village and community.

Once a month we hold "Quality Time" services which focus on themes that will appeal to children.

We follow our normal patterns of services for Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, and again offered a service at the Radford Rendezvous.

We had good attendance at our Christmas services, and held Carols by Candlelight again on Christmas Eve. These services included Christingle, Carols by Candlelight and a further service on Christmas Day. Sunbeams also held their Nativity at the Church, which was lovely. We hosted a display for the Centenary of Armistice day. Many thanks to all involved.

Martin has conducted 2 Weddings, 2 Baptisms, 3 Funerals and 3 Ashes interments/memorials this year.

There are currently 65 people on the electoral roll, 17 have left and 9 have joined. The congregation have completed new electoral roll applications. This exercise has to be carried out every 6 years.

Communication

The BRIDGE was distributed in its usual format and is always well received. The Church notice board displays regular communication, including notices, Messy Church, Quality Time, Cathedral information, SOCS....to name a few. The Church diary of services is e mailed monthly to all Church members. This has links to the Church website, managed by Barbara Hodge, where you can view up to date news and events. Well done to Barbara for keeping this so regularly updated. You can also find links about Coventry Cathedral and the Cathedral Newsletter.

Correspondence

We continue to receive regular newsletters from the charities and agencies we support, that and Diocesan mailings are posted on the notice board. Relevant correspondence is displayed on the Church notice board. Over the course of the year, we received various notices and letters about specific events and organisations. These were made available for anyone interested, either in paper form or electronically and are posted on the Church notice board.

Building Report 2018

It is good to report that there have been no real issues with the building this year, other than the replacement of one of the “breathing units” for the fire alarm system that was not functioning properly. The water leak in January over the disabled toilet was fixed quickly and well – a burst pipe.

The facilities we are able to provide mean that we have held deanery events, training days, and retreat days for The Well, as well as our mission events. Grateful thanks to all those who keep the church clean and tidy, and to Jean and Brian for continuing to master the heating system. We really are very blessed to have such a beautiful building to worship in.

Rev. Martin Green

Church Warden’s Report 2018

As the church is only five years post re-opening, there has been only general maintenance other than the flood over the flat roof. The five yearly checks, insurance and electrical were carried out as well as yearly checks (clock).

I again have to thank all the members of the congregation who make my role so easy – Jean and Helen who do the rota and all those who carry out these roles; those who run Quality Time and Family Worship; the readers and those who lead prayers; the sidesmen; those who do the flowers so beautifully; those who do coffee and those who operate the desk.

I thank the music group for giving us so much pleasure and leadership in worship. Likewise the bell ringers.

I thank those who carry out the cleaning and decorating of the church. I thank also the churchyard team. I thank those who open the church every Friday. So many people who work together in fellowship.

I would like to say thank you to Martin for all his help and support (he never gets cross when I get things wrong). Also a special thanks to Peter Dove who so often steps in for me when I am unable to be at church.

I have carried your concerns and thoughts to PCC and brought back their replies and decisions. Please let me know if there are any issues and thoughts you would like me to raise.

Barbara Fowkes

Treasurer’s Report 2018

I apologise for this doom and gloom treasurer’s report. Fortunately we have savings that we can call upon each year, but they will not last forever. In 2018, expenditure exceeded income by £5325 but had it not been for a one-off gift of £2700, this would have been considerably higher.

A huge thank you to everyone who donates to the church but our planned regular giving of £18790, a sizeable sum, was, even with gift aid added of £4698, not enough to cover our parish share of £27627 this year. We have been informed that the parish share will be increasing by 2.6% next year to £28343.

Our spending includes £4839 to charities which is an important part of the church’s mission.

Included in the general fund figure is a bequest given in 2017. This money has not yet been spent but the suggestion was that it should go towards a floor standing candelabra and not the general maintenance of the church.

St Nicholas Church PCC, on behalf of the deanery, is custodian of the HOPE money, a deanery initiative to bring in new church members. This is held in a designated fund included in the general fund and at the end of the year stood at £793.

One cost increase in particular which is not a one-off and which is a cause for concern is the fire/security alarm total for 2018 compared to 2017. The increase (£1802) and indeed the costs of maintaining the alarms may need further investigation by the PCC.

Kari Molesworth

Churchyard Report 2018

It has been another year when the weather has not made the work easy.

This has been a year when the weather has been particularly difficult. The extreme cold followed by a wet spell prevented us from getting on top of the job from the start and it is always difficult to catch up, but we did in the end. A growing problem has been the disposal of ever more leaves and the soil accompanying plants in pots of ever increasing size. Strictly the rules allow only cut flowers and perhaps we have been too lax in applying this. Visitors should remember the appearance of the churchyard should be pleasing to all and any one burial plot should not call attention to itself by being over ostentatious.

Again I extend my thanks to David Holdstock, John Beard and David York - the mowing team - and to Henry Marriott for his specialist help with trees, shrubs and the holly hedge. Advancing years and health issues of our families or ourselves reduce our availability from time to time and more and younger volunteers would be appreciated.

Peter Dove

Church Flowers Report 2018

Our first festival in the year is always Easter and this year we had beautiful arrangements of yellow roses and white lilies, tulips and daffodils and of course, little chicks hidden within them. October saw our Harvest Festival with vibrant Autumn colours of red, bronze and yellow. As 2018 was a very special year (100 years since the end of WW1),

Remembrance Sunday had a very special pedestal depicting flowing poppies as tears shed for the fallen (thank you Wendy). Christmas flowers are always special as we celebrate Christ's birth, red and gold colours, candles and the Christmas tree. Thank you to everyone on the Flower rota and those who help with the festivals. Without such Wonderful ladies our church would look very bereft.

Sue Walwyn

TRAIIDCRAFT REPORT 2018

A huge thank you to you all who support the monthly Traidcraft stall. A total just under £1,000 was taken throughout the year. In due course St. Nicholas will receive a cheque which will be 5% of that amount. I have been told by Michael Porter, who brings all the items to me, that the craft items will not be available in the near future. He is awaiting news himself as to how this will progress. Traidcraft is utterly committed to continue "to fight for a world where all trade is fair"

Sue Walwyn

Pastoral Care Report 2018

Are you a newcomer to St. Nicholas church? We'd love to come and have a chat and get to know you. Neighbours in Radford Semele are very good at looking after one another! Nevertheless, there are lonely people in the village who might like to have a visit and a chat over a cup of tea. We try to reach out to those people, and Radford Rendezvous is often where we hear about them, but people get missed, please do phone if you know someone in difficult circumstances, or who is poorly and needs help. We have a lovely team of volunteers who are happy to go and visit.

Helen Robertson Tel 339978

Prayer Group Report 2018

Psalm 34.v.18 The LORD is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

We meet in church to pray before the regular Holy Communion on the first Tuesday of the month.

We talk about world affairs, and national concerns – we feel strengthened when we pray together and can affirm that God is almighty and powerful, whatever the state of the world.

We pray for our local community, particularly the school.

We pray for those who are sick or sad. We bring any particular needs.

'Under the Tower'

On the third Sunday morning of the month, we meet 'under the Tower' to pray for the service and we remove the names that people have put on the prayer tree. These are prayed aloud during the service so the whole church family can share the concerns that have been written on the prayer leaves; we are available too for anyone who would like prayer for themselves, or for a family member or friend, during and after the Communion service.

We are a very small group and would love you to join us. You are very welcome.

Helen Robertson

Bible Study Report 2018

The Thursday evening Bible Study Group meets (usually) on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at the home of Peter & Pauline Morrell.

January 2018 saw us continuing with **The Twelve Disciples** looking at **Philip, John, Thomas, Nathaniel and Judas Iscariot. James, son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Thaddaeus (Saint Jude)**, the **Final Three** comprised one study. Not a great deal is written in the Gospels about these three but we do know that they were chosen by Jesus to be in the group of his closest followers. They served, went out and preached, were faithful and witnessed Jesus' miracles but not as "high profile" as some of the other disciples. All three were faithful "to the end", taking Jesus' command "*to make disciples in every part of the world*" and travelling as far afield as Britain and China, so church tradition reveals! They all sacrificed their lives following Jesus.

At the end of the series we were asked, "***which of the 12 disciples do you think you are most like and why?***" How would you respond?

Before we began our next major study we reflected on **Mary Magdalene**, an important figure in Jesus' life and yet one often judged harshly. Our study was based on a TV programme about "*Jesus' Female Disciples*" with reference to **Mark 15:40-1, Luke 8:1-3, Matthew 27:55-61 and John 20:1-18**. The study concluded by informing us of the 4 special graces that Mary received, **to see angels, to see the risen Christ, first person to see Jesus alive, a proclaimer of the Good News**. We were asked if our views of Mary had changed at all by the study.

We then began our next major study, "***Jesus through Old Testament Eyes***" which all found most illuminating. The study investigated how the New Testament uses the Old Testament to present the gospel of Jesus. The studies worked through the life of Jesus systematically, demonstrating that the use of the Old Testament is crucial to understanding the life, death, resurrection and present rule of Jesus. We saw that God had been preparing the way for many hundreds of years through the events and prophecies of the Old Testament. The final study, *The Present Rule of Jesus* was possibly the most challenging, linking **Psalm 110 and Hebrews 1:1-14** and asking "***Who is David's Lord?***". We asked for Martin's help on this one and gained much more understanding from his response.

The links and references in these 8 studies between Old and New Testaments were stunningly highlighted, enabling us to see things much more clearly.

Peter Morrell

Food Bank Report 2018

Food banks

- help individuals and families in crisis by providing emergency food supplies which are a short term measure allowing a breathing space at times of great crisis,

- work with local professional care workers who refer people, with a food voucher, to the Foodbank centre where they are given their food supplies, a cuppa and help in finding other professionals who can help them out of their crisis,
- give an opportunity for the community to contribute to and support local well-being in a simple, practical way.

St Nicholas Church began supporting the Fosse Food bank (www.fosse.foodbank.org.uk) in March 2014 and our first “shipment” comprising of 42 items was taken to Bishops Itchington Church and from there to the collection and distribution centre at St Peter’s Church, Kineton.

Since that initial “shipment”, regular ones have been made to St Peter’s where items are “weighed in”, counted, sorted, and prepared for distribution.

The collection point at St Nicholas is between the entrance and the Prayer Window where there are 2 large boxes waiting to be filled! There is also a list of suggested items but anything non perishable, tinned or dried is most acceptable.

During 2018 six shipments have been made comprising approximately 300 items making a grand total of at least 2800 items since 2014. At a recent visit, the Organiser at St Peter’s said “*St Nicholas is very generous in its giving*”.

As well as donating items for which your generosity is greatly appreciated, we are asked to pray for “*each and every client and that everyone working at the Food banks will rely on God for their strength and that He will give each one a heart of love and compassion*”.

Peter and Pauline Morrell

Syrian Orthodox Christian School (SOCS) in Bethlehem Report 2018

The SOCS known locally as the Mar Ephraim School is situated in the Beit Jala district of Bethlehem, and opened in 2003 to provide education for the children of the Syrian Orthodox Community, a minority Christian community living in and around Bethlehem.

The “City of David” lies within the Palestinian Authority some 8 miles south of Jerusalem.

Opening in September 2003 with just 15 Kindergarten aged children, the school now in its 16th year comprises the original building and a recently added 2 storey annexe which opened in June 2017 with 13 new classrooms and their facilities.

Amal the Head Teacher writes in September 2018,

“The school now has students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, 3-18 years, is considered one of the very best in the Bethlehem area and is growing so rapidly that a further floor of rooms will be needed by 2019! Our 16th school year started in late August 2018 with 640 students and 63 staff.

Our first senior group (the fifteen 3 year olds from 2003!) graduated in May 2018, and went to University in the autumn term, this is quite an achievement!

However many families barely cover their daily needs with 50 unable to pay the minimum fees. Our grateful thanks to you for your continuing financial help for these families, without it their children would be unable to attend school.

I wish to thank you all for your love, care, support and prayers. May God bless you all.

The Coventry Diocesan SOCS Support Group established in June 2000 to help the Syrian Orthodox Community realise their dream of a school for their children, authorised the transfer during 2018 of **£22000** comprising **£18000** for fees (£500 per child per year) for children whose families could not afford them and **£4000** for books and equipment.

The total financial support for the school authorised by the Support Group since its foundation now exceeds **£182000**, this has been raised by churches and individuals from within, and beyond the Coventry Diocese. The annual **Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper** failed to materialise due to “factors beyond our control” but we hope to resurrect it in 2019.

St Nicholas Church has again been most generous both in its financial and prayer support for the school and during 2018 donated over **£1800** to the SOCS Support Fund (overseen by the Coventry Diocesan Board of Finance) of which **£880** came from “**Little Socks Reunions**”, **£750** from the church’s annual giving and over **£220** from Gift Aid.! Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Bethlehem whose lives are so close to the troubles in the Middle East and who strive so successfully to show the “*love of God*” to the children in their care in this “**beacon of hope**” that is the Syrian Orthodox Christian School.

Peter Morrell

Cathedral Parish Partners’ (CPPs) Report 2018

Meetings between representatives of Coventry Cathedral and the Parishes in the Diocese began in 1990 when the first Cathedral Liaison Officers were commissioned.

More recently, this aspect of communication between the Cathedral and Parishes has become known as "Cathedral Parish Partners" – CPPs.

During 2018 meetings were held in June and October giving Parishes and the Cathedral the opportunity to exchange news. Cathedral news largely focussed on the celebrations organised to mark the centenary of the Diocese. The October meeting took place at **St Gabriel's School in Houlton near Rugby**.

This is a new C of E Aided school which opened very recently to serve an estate which will eventually comprise 6200 houses built on the site of the former Rugby Radio Station. We were given a very up-beat resume by the Vicar of developments so far and how the church there is an integral part of the community. The final meeting of the year was held at the Cathedral on 10th November comprising a service of Evensong incorporating the Re-commissioning of CPPs for the next 3 years.

The PCC of St Nicholas Church asked if I would continue as CPP which I am very happy to do.

For news of the Cathedral and to keep up-to-date you can visit,

- Its website at www.coventrycathedral.org.uk
- Its CPP Face book site, just search for *Coventry Cathedral Parish Partners*,
- The dedicated Notice Board at St Nicholas Church where you'll find information of events, the CPP Newsletter and the weekly "Cathedral Matters".

Tower Captain's Report 2018

On November 7th, members of the local Guild of Bellringers rang a peal. It was rung to commemorate the men from Radford Semele who gave their lives in the First World War The peal took 3 hours to ring and coincided with the children from the school coming in to Church to see the photos that were on display. Mrs Benson, Head teacher of the school later reported that the children were fascinated to hear the bells ringing.

On Remembrance Sunday, we rang the bells before the service; half muffled (to give them a mournful tone) and then unmuffled to give them a joyous tone after the service. This involved an un-muffler going up to the bells during the service to take the muffles off.

We were delighted to ring at the 3 weddings that took place in 2018. We rang for as many of the Sunday services as we could manage, and we rang for the Carols by Candlelight service on Christmas Eve.

Fiona Dyson

Martin Club Report 2018

We have continued to meet over the year, not quite monthly and we now try to meet on the last Thursday of the month. With James moving away, we have relocated mainly to Kerstin and Tony's house and are very grateful for their hospitality. We have continued to explore various themes together, and hope to expand the group this coming year.

Rev. Martin Green

Tuesday Communion and Prayer Report 2018

On the first Tuesday of each month, we have a short communion service preceded by a time of prayer for the village and church. Helen leads this prayer time, and a faithful group gather to pray in the quiet. We then break as others begin to gather for communion, and I am very grateful to Peter Dove who sets everything up for us, and helps take a lead in the service. Margherita and Peter Morrell alternate leading our worship and a few more gather together to share in this. It is small but a very special and we finish with refreshments together, as on Sundays. Do join us for this little oasis of worship at the beginning of each month, whether it is for prayer first or just for communion.

Rev. Martin Green

Deanery Synod Report 2018

2018 was the centenary of the Coventry Diocese. There were two special events in the Deanery. The first was a visit by Archbishop Justin in May to several venues in the Deanery, ending with an evening for

Southam and Rugby deaneries, with a hog roast in a barn – where the farmyard was spotless after the heavy rain – and an inspiring talk by the Archbishop. The second was a cream tea at a Napton Farm which was organised by the clergy for the laity, in recognition of their contribution to their parishes. Bishop John spoke his journey of faith. As Area Dean Rev. Martin Green organised events for HOPE18 in the Deanery. Several were held at Radford Semele. The first was on “ Making Disciples” then “How would Jesus lead worship” and “ transforming communities”. Looking at the issue of mental health. There were two Massive Messy Church mornings, held in Southam, a marriage preparation day and a concert by Paul Bell. 2018 was the first year that we have been “ Up to strength” with clergy. The 2018 Parish Share has been paid in full, and we have been able to make a contribution to the Diocesan Support Fund – from which we have received help in the past. It is expected the parish share will rise by 3% in 2019 around the Deanery.

Most churches had special events over Remembrance weekend. Long Itchington has a new village memorial and the church has replaced some pews with chairs. Stockton had a very successful Christmas Tree Festival. Southam has a breakfast church. The memorial garden at Harbury is completed. A young man from Pilgrim Puppets has achieved a top international award.

The Deanery informal service “In the Spirit” is now held at Marton on the first Sunday of the month. At Deanery Synod meetings, we receive reports on the Diocesan and General Synod meetings. The big challenges facing parishes in the Deanery include the sale of Glebe Land, Concerns on disruption from HS2 and the amount of residential property being built.

Margherita Dove

Foundation Governors’ Report 2018

Radford Semele Church of England VC Primary School has been blessed with another successful year while also seeing a number of changes. The school continues to be a nurturing and happy environment with a conscientious and enthusiastic staff helping the children to achieve their best and affirming their Christian Values

The Foundation Governors, Mandy Marriott, Rachel Buckingham and Katherine Pickford served on the Governors’ Body and formed part of the Moving Forward as a Church School Group. They are also link governors for RE, Pupil Premium, Monitoring, Training and Health and Safety.

In July 2018, at the end of the academic year, we were sad to see Mrs Jayne White leave her position as Head teacher of the school. However, we were also delighted to welcome Mrs Katie Benson as the new Head teacher. Since her arrival in September, she has been working closely with the Moving Forward Group and with Martin and Katherine to continue to promote the Christian ethos of the school.

The close relationship between Church and School has continued. Both Martin and Katherine Pickford working with the staff at the school regularly leading collective worship in the school hall and that the church. Christian festivals like Easter and Christmas have seen the children worshipping at St Nicholas Church and enjoying singing the songs they have learned from their teachers and from Martin. Pupils from the school also attended the Coventry Diocese Centenary Service and each class walked to the Church to experience the Remembrance exhibition.

In order to encourage the children to be more involved in the Christian fellowship of the school, Harriett Gott maintains a book of reflections in which the children record their understanding of the values and teachings of the acts Collective Worship. Reflections are shared with classmates whenever possible, and with a governor each half term. Alongside this she has also established a Pupils’ Worship Group at the School. This group has responsibility for organising some of the Collective Worship Assemblies each term. This is a fun responsibility they have very much enjoyed.

The promotion of Christian values remains at the forefront of collective worship, class teaching and playtime at the school. Values for life continue to play a very important role in all of these activities.

The new RE curriculum is still being established and monitored within school, with focus days each half term for the children to learn about Christianity and other world religions and values.

The children have contributed to the community of Radford Semele, by visiting, and singing at Radford Rendezvous and Ashley House, and have supported charitable events throughout the year. In their 'thinking of others' they have supported many charities including the local food bank, Operation Christmas Child, Children in Need, and Save the Children.

Special Church services and Messy Church announcements are displayed in the school and published in the school newsletters. These are often attended by the children and their families.

Mandy Marriott, Rachel Buckingham and Katherine Pickford.

Hospitality Report 2018

Unfortunately we did not have as many events this year as we have had previously but nevertheless they were worthwhile. I should like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation.

Gordon Laking's hot cross buns were a great success at the Good Friday Messy Church Event. So many people turned up and it was encouraging to see lots of families enjoying themselves whilst eating these delicious treats. A coffee morning was held in aid of Morning Star Ministries which raised over £600 and my grateful thanks to all who contributed and helped on the day. A Harvest Supper was enjoyed by many and my thanks to those again who helped with setting up the church, cooking the shepherd's pies, Martin with his quiz, and to those who helped serve and clear up afterwards. We had our usual mince pies and mulled wine just before Christmas which went down very well. My thanks go to those who give so graciously to the food for Messy Church. I would especially like to thank Fiona who works tirelessly cooking and organising the food that seems to be so much appreciated.

Plans are already in place for a Church Breakfast for this coming year and I would ask for your prayers that this may encourage more people to come into the church.

Jean Loveridge

HOPE 18 REPORT

This year has been another exciting year of mission across the Deanery under the HOPE banner. In the spring, we ran another Deanery Alpha at the Green Man, and the new materials are simply superb. Numbers were lower than the previous course, but it was still well received and new steps taken. We have continued to meet monthly at the Green Man using the Table Talk materials, and this continues to draw new people and I hope, build new relationships that can lead on to another Alpha in the coming year. We hosted concert evenings, welcoming Paul Bell back for another superb evening. We have also hosted three training evenings for the Deanery, based around the three elements of the Diocesan Vision – worshipping God, making new disciples and transforming communities. These were well attended and we hope to repeat this exercise in 2019.

It is with sadness that many still treat these events as Church entertainment, rather than opportunities to bring friends to hear something of the Gospel in an easy and relaxed atmosphere. The purpose of the Mission Team is to provide accessible places and occasions for us to bring friends to – along the lines of Paul's words "how will anyone know (about Jesus) unless someone tells them?"

So do please continue to come and support these events with prayer and with friends – and pray above all that God continues to change hearts and lives.

Rev. Martin Green

Messy Church Report 2018

Messy Church has welcomed many children from the village and the surrounding area into the Church to have fun participating in crafts, games and singing, to learn about the Bible and to worship God. We have covered Easter and Christmas themes alongside bible stories from the Old and New Testaments such as

Noah and his ark and the healing of the paralysed man. After our worship we have always shared, a meal together. We also joined with other Churches in the Deanery at the Grange in Southam to share Jesus' teachings in two Massive Messy Churches.

Rachel Buckingham and Flo Worley

Thursday Morning Bible Study 2018

Our group started the year with ten members, but we have been pleased to include two more during the year. In the past we have used various study books, but apart from two short studies recently, we have felt more comfortable studying straight from the Bible with help occasionally from Bible notes. We started the year with Matthew and now have moved on to Mark.

These Mornings have been punctuated with a visit for lunch and coffee out and the celebration of birthdays, of course with cake! We started meeting in church for the early part of the year, but have spent the winter gratefully meeting in comfort at the home of Dorothy Laking. We study in a relaxed atmosphere with prayers at the end of meetings, and have felt great benefit from a loving fellowship.

Ann Jones

Maintenance Log 2018

Maintenance Log for St Nicholas Church for 2018

DATE	ACTIVITY	
31/1	Silver bags dry cleaned	PD
28/2	Clearsound replaced sounder in disabled toilet	MG
11/3	Plumber to investigate leak in disabled toilet	MG
12/3	Plumber fixed burst pipe	MG
19/3	Window cleaner	
9/4	Ceiling repair in disabled toilet	MG
13/4	Admiral – annual fire extinguisher service	MG
14/5	Window cleaner	
29/5	Clearsound – maintenance and repair – <i>didn't turn up !</i>	MG
5/6	Ecclesiastical Insurance inspection	MG
29.6	Clearsound – maintenance	MG
9/7	Window cleaner	
17/7	Clearsound – repair and restore fire alarm breathing system	MG
31/7	Alpha – system maintenance	BF
6/8	Alpha – system maintenance	BF
26/9	Clearsound - replacement of breathing supply for fire system	MG
29/10	Window cleaner	PD
14/12	Clearsound maintenance visit	MG

Rev. Martin Green