

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell in the Diocese of Swansea & Brecon



Annual Report for 2018



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Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2018. This year, I have taken over the role of collating it from Peter Madley who has done such a fine job over the years – well done Peter! – we continue to miss the outstanding contribution to the church from both you and Gill.

It has been another busy and productive year for the church and that is reflected in the substance of the reports. As always, it is a “good read” and I would encourage you all to take it home and pray for all the different areas of church activity. I would like to thank all the leaders of the various groups and ministries in the church. You do a fantastic job, often with minimal resources. This is actually my last opportunity to thank you formally as the Lay Chair of the PCC as I will be standing down at the AVM in order to have a greater time to devote to my new role in evangelism across the Ministry Area, which has had to play “second fiddle” as I have continued my administrative role and theological training. I will continue as an “ex-officio” member of the PCC and will attend St. Edmund’s whenever I am able to do so!

A big “thank you” to Virginia Robotham who has produced the lovely cards and artwork for the church; I am pleased that we have incorporated it into the design of our cover. Thanks also to Patrick Daniell who is standing down from maintaining the Peace Border, which he has done so lovingly. This year is a time for change in our Church leadership, and I should like to thank Anthony and Martin for all the hard work they have put into the leadership of the church, and all those who have served on the Standing Committee and PCC during the years that I have been Chair. I have had the privilege to have been involved in achieving a fairly seamless transition between two incumbencies. Much of the work the team puts in goes unnoticed, but many of the things that we take for granted have only been secured by means of considerable energy and commitment.

Julian Stedman, PCC Lay Chair

Dear Friends,

The past year has been one of challenges and opportunities at St Edmund's and across our Ministry Area. We are facing these challenges with the power of the Spirit, and the support of our Ministry Team, both Lay and Ordained. Our Worship Leaders Team has been active in shaping and developing our worship. We have non-Eucharist services at least once a month at both services. It gives us the opportunity to receive the gifts of members of the lay ministry team.

We are encouraging more people to become involved in the lay teams, and offering training to anyone who feels they would like to do so. Alison Stedman, Simon Large and Moseena have started Worship Leader's training. A Theology for Life group meets every Wednesday at the church, it helps those exploring ministry possibilities. We are encouraged to receive two ordinands, Gill Todd and Anna Bessant with us, this year. Julian Stedman, the first Lay Evangelist in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, was Commissioned by the Archbishop last year, he is developing a team of evangelists at St Edmund's and the Ministry Area to connect and reach out the unchurched in our communities.

Occasional Offices are very central to the life of the church. Ministering to those families who lost their dear ones has been well looked after by our pastoral team. Our engagement with families with young children and a commitment to prepare children and adults for baptism has added new members to our congregation. We had 11 weddings in 2018, which was an increase from the previous year. I have seen overall growth in numbers and discipleship and particularly welcome new people at the 10.45am service. A few families have left us during 2018, notably Peter and Gill Madley, who spent a number of years in the area and made a substantial contribution to the life of the church.

Life continues to be ridiculously busy, but I have received and appreciated support and encouragement from many people, including Anthony Silwood and Sue Foster, our Churchwardens, Rosalind Matty; our PCC secretary, Martin James; our Treasurer, who is stepping down after a tireless work for over a decade, those

who have taken on Communion by Extension responsibilities as lay visitors, worship group, fundraising team and our prayer group. I must acknowledge the work of our technical support and publicity teams to connect us well with the town and the wider world. The project team for the roof repair has done a great job, raising £146,500 from grants and other sources. Still, we are looking for a shortfall of £27,500, which I am bringing to both the attention of the Town Community and St Edmund's Congregation.

The possibility of Crickhowell High School becoming a Church in Wales secondary school is an exciting one and one which will enable us to work more closely with the staff and pupils there. Our work with children, families and young people is growing, with regular Sunday schools, Family Services, Messy Church, Toddler groups, Open the Book team, and more recently, a Youth Alpha course in Crickhowell.

Our ten days of prayer with the Lee Abbey team was a great joy and it was a pleasure to see the ten churches in the Ministry Area working with each other, and the team, to share our faith with the whole community, not only inside our churches, but in our schools, care homes, at coffee mornings and toddler groups, as well as at the two major community events; the Ceilidh and the Royal Wedding Street Party. The prospect of a new Missional Community in Brynmawr is a very exciting one, and we look forward to news of the start of the recruitment process.

I am looking forward to continued growth, deepening commitment and developing ministry with great joy during 2019 and beyond. I hope you are too.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Khan', with a stylized flourish underneath.

The Rector of St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell

Lay pastoral Visiting

The Lay Pastoral Visiting team consists of Rev Sally Rees (Team Leader) and 15 Lay Pastoral Visitors and two people who are our prayer partners. Mairwen Large visits baptismal families and other families who need support as part of her role as Children and Families Worker. Sally leads on pastoral visiting and activities concerning older people and those who are bereaved. This report contains information on the activities that are undertaken by the team. All members of the team undertake personal visits and there is a team of people who are dedicated to Greenhill and another team dedicated to Maes y Ffynnon (although there are some overlaps) and some events which are supported by the whole team (especially when we hold services of worship). This year there have also been several opportunities for liaison with the wider community in general and in the development of a Dementia Friendly Community in Crickhowell.

Visits

As a team we regularly visit more than 18 housebound people. Sally takes Home Communion to those who cannot get to church. (10 communicants)

Greenhill Care Home

The team visits Greenhill every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm. During a month there is one service of Home Communion, one service of worship and the other weeks the team plans or helps with activities for the residents to join in with. These involve singing songs which they remember from past times; reading/telling stories; poetry; helping to make something; hymn singing; musical events e.g. Vaughan and Kaye play and sing, Gill is coming back this year to play her harp in March; and generally chatting and building friendships.

Maes y Ffynnon Retirement Facility

One of the team attends the residents Coffee Morning every Saturday morning at 10.30am. The numbers vary from week to week and there have been several new residents this year who have moved in and joined the group and now there are almost as many

men as ladies attending. This continues to be a very convivial time and we are getting to know more people all the time. We take services of worship three times a year – At Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Caffi Croeso (Dementia Friendly Cafe)

In April 2018 Caffi Croeso, a monthly Dementia Friendly Cafe was launched and has been very successful with around 30–35 people (including carers and volunteers) attending each month. We meet each third Tuesday afternoon of the month at the Parish Hall for tea, cake, chat, entertainment and bingo. The programme has been varied (from Elvis and Ukulele bands to seaside activities) and we always have fun together and spend time laughing together. The local Charity 'Living with Dementia' is funding this venture for at least the first two years.

Bereavement Care

Sally follows up those whose funerals the church has been involved with and also others who are known to be grieving and wish to have a visit. The whole team are involved in preparing and participating in the Annual Star Service in December for those who want to remember a loved one at Christmas time. This year St Edmund's joined with St David's Hospice Care, Light up a Life Programme and there were more than 100 people in attendance showing the need that there is to care for those who are grieving at this time. Several Stars were placed on the Christmas tree. The collaboration between St Ed's and St David's Hospice Care worked well and it is hoped that we can continue working together in future years. £350 was raised for St David's Hospice Care in donations and a further £100 was donated through gift-aid envelopes taken directly to the charity.

Training

Sally provides at least one training opportunity and one retreat day. This year it is likely that our training day will focus on Bereavement Care. We have not planned a date for our retreat but it will take place in the summer months.

Opportunities to work with our Community

Dementia Friendly Community. The meeting that took place in February of 2018 decided that the next step is to form a Steering

Group of Community members of all kinds to start to move Crickhowell forward to becoming a Dementia Friendly Community (DFC). They will then make visits to and liaise with Brecon Dementia Friendly Community Committee who have much more experience in this process and already have official DFC status. Sally runs a support group for those caring with someone living with Dementia. *Rev Sally Rees and Hilary Clarke have been appointed to a Steering Group* with other members of our community and Powys County Councillors to discuss the future of Day Care provision for the elderly in Crickhowell and surrounding areas. *Sally has met with Rhiannon Davies from Brecon Mind* who is leading on and taking part in a two year research project funded by the Welsh National Government introducing 'Social Prescribing' for adults over the age of 18 years. Crickhowell is going to be one of the pilot areas for this research. Sally has had several discussions with Emma from Bookish about collaborative community involvement, including facilitating a 'Death Cafe', and a community/church project to install a Conversation or Talking Bench specifically aimed at those who would like company when in, out and about in Crickhowell.

Ministry Area and Deanery News.

Sally continues to support, advise and participate with the Lay pastoral Visiting Teams in the Ministry Area and three training sessions in St Catwg's Ministry Area and beyond have taken place this year. Sally was appointed as Bishops Officer for Ministry to Older People in the Swansea and Brecon Diocese, thought to be the first of its kind in the Church in Wales (and perhaps also across the Church of England). She is grateful for the recognition of the importance of Older People's Ministry and for Archbishop John's continuing affirmation of her role and support to develop this further. The Gift of Years conference was held at St Edmund's Church in Crickhowell on October 4th, and more than 70 people from different denominations and organisations heard about the practical Anna Chaplaincy approach to supporting older people.

Revd. Sally Rees

Evangelism

The Church in Wales is taking Evangelism seriously and ambitious projects to grow new Christians across Wales are the focus of a major new £10m fund launched earlier this year. This first-ever Evangelism Fund is intended to engage Welsh society with the claims of the Christian faith in vibrant and exciting ways. Grants of between £250,000 and £3m will be available for diocesan projects, which crucially, will focus on people rather than buildings. However, it is not yet known how individual churches will benefit from this initiative and there is no bidding process for seeking funding.

As the first Licensed Evangelist in the Ministry Area, I have the challenge to work out my approach to evangelism, and when I have completed my training, will be setting out an action plan to help us share our faith more effectively with our those around us. We continued our attendance at the Annual Duck Race, with good contacts with the community on a lovely day. Our first new area of opportunity is with young people's ministry and, thanks to Ed and Suzanne Walker, we held a very encouraging weekend with Geoff Harley-Mason at the beginning of November; his initial observations were circulated to PCC members and we are seeking ways to progress the appointment of a Youth Worker.

Julian Stedman

Worship and Music

We have continued to develop the leading of Services in St. Edmund's with our dedicated team of worship leaders and musicians. It is a great joy to have a team who are so creative and imaginative and we are looking forward to others joining us after training. It is a tremendous blessing and privilege to lead Services in a responsive congregation such as ours. We have recently undertaken a survey at the PCC, which sought feedback on the style and structure of our services. We will never be able to please all the people all the time, but we will endeavour to respond to the positive and constructively critical comments as best we can. A special mention must go to Eric Gower who is working on the integration of

new Liturgy into our Services and introduced the very helpful material for Advent and Lent. He is keen that we commemorate our Patron Saint, St. Edmund, in a more definite way in 2019.

The singers and musicians have responded positively to Vaughan taking some time off, and, in particular, we must thank Anthony and Helen Seys-Llewellyn, Kaye Bennett and John Matty for keeping the show on the road so ably, with Kerry, Mairwen and Simon Large's support. We have an enthusiastic team of singers who come when they can and have helped us to extend our repertoire of hymns and songs. This year, in addition to our normal rehearsals, we were inspired by a special visit of Geoff Weaver who was Director of Studies at the Royal School of Church Music. Geoff helped us to understand music as an essential element in creation, he provided a brief historical overview on the use of music in worship. We sang a little plainsong, some hymns, and some music from Taize, Iona, and various parts of the world. Particular focus was provided on how music enhances the worship, creates an appropriate mood, adds depth to the text etc. He provided a particular focus on the Psalms, and how we may sing them today.

Julian Stedman

Children's and Families Work

2018 was, as always, a busy year. The Lee Abbey Mission generated lots of opportunities for outreach and the street party to mark the Royal Wedding was great fun. It was good to be part of the Greatest British High Street. There was also a long weekend with Bob Hartman in June to celebrate 10 years of Open the Book in Crickhowell Primary School; We hosted an OTB training event in church, took Bob to the school to present a copy of one of his books to each class and he also took the Under 5s end of year service. It was bitter sweet as it was also Gill and Peter Madley's last week with us. Gill was my role model and mentor in the field of Children's Work and we as a team miss her very much.

Messy Monday. The staffing is now stabilized with Carole, Helen and Judy covering the rota and a craft or two provided each week. Numbers have fluctuated from 6 to 14; which is about the most we

can accommodate safely in the Parish Hall. I am pleased that new faces have come to replace those who left for nursery school in July and new friendships are being built. We had a very enjoyable Christmas party for which we hired some soft play equipment as a treat.

Under 5s Celebrations. As well as the Bob Hartman event in June we held an Easter celebration in the school; I told the Easter story dressed as a donkey. Bert joined us for both the Harvest and Christmas services, scattering some broad bean seeds in a very aggressive fashion for Harvest and opening all the presents at Christmas. Each of these occasions is attended by about 50-60 children from Reception.

Pyramid Party Holiday Club. The staffing rota worked well this year; we were grateful for our friends in the Evangelical Church who are staunch supporters. and we were blessed to receive the youthful contributions of Ayub, Youbab and their 4 cousins for the course of the week. We looked to see what we could learn from the way Joseph's relationship with God and with his family changed as he was sold into slavery and then became an important figure in Egypt's leadership. We were particularly pleased that large numbers of children in the 9-13 age groups registered this year.

Family@4/Messy Church Team. The team has worked hard and creatively as ever to provide Fun Faith and Food on a variety of Bible-Based themes this year. *The Ten Bridesmaids; Love is ...* (Fruits of the Spirit); *Mary and Martha, Breakfast on the Beach; Thy Kingdom come* (with drama from the Lee Abbey Team); *Wonderfully Made* (Psalm 139); *The Lost Sheep; Caring for God's Creation*; the *Armour of God* on Remembrance Sunday; and the *Messy Christingle* in December. Thanks to all of you who help out in one way or another, from collecting buttons to making delicious stews. I should also note my thanks to Rhian Dickenson and all the family, who were faithful members of the team, and who left St Ed's this year.

Messy Good Friday/All Age Worship. Probably the most challenging task in the year to present to children, but one which I find very rewarding when it works well. This year we used Good Friday eggs in which each person collected various items representing an element of the Easter Story: a small loaf of bread, a

small silver coin, a chicken, a tiny wooden cross, and a piece of white linen cloth.

The Nativity Trail around Crickhowell was again a busy time with good turnout for the Crib Service. The response to the quiz was disappointing compared to recent years so we will look for another way of involving those who enjoy sewing as well as our knitters next year.

Cubs. Alison and I have continued this ministry - 4 sessions a year at Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the Summer. They are great listeners and I usually use a Godly Play storytelling style using simple visual aids and no story book to lead the session. They also joined us for Christingle this year which was a great encouragement.

None of these activities would happen if it wasn't for a large team who give generously of their time and talents to support this work. I have stopped short of naming each one - there were over 30 people involved in Holiday Club alone and I would be sure to have forgotten someone. So I give thanks for every knitter, jelly maker, cutter-outer, clearer-upper and of course pray-er who offers their support.

Mairwen Large

Open the Book Report

A team of eight people from St Edmund's Church and the Evangelical Church are privileged to be invited into Crickhowell Primary School each Tuesday during term time to read and dramatise Bible stories to the whole school assembly. The rolling programme lasts three years and covers both Old and New Testaments. The team meets to plan sessions for half a term ahead; Melloney then types up the plans and distributes the details for each week to each team member. We hold a stock of dressing up clothes and props to make the stories more realistic. Each story is a challenge to illustrate so that we convey a lasting memory for the children! Children are always eager to volunteer to take part in acting out the stories alongside the adults.

In June 2018 we celebrated ten years of Open the Book in Crickhowell, which was started by Gill Madley. Gill invited the author

of the Lion Storyteller Bible that is the basis of our storytelling, Bob Hartman, to spend a weekend with us and tell stories to a variety of audiences. Bob led a Saturday training day for Open the Book teams in the area, which was greatly appreciated. On Sunday he spoke in the morning service at St Edmund's, to which lots of young people came. On Sunday evening he addressed a group of young people at the Evangelical Church. He held a session at Book-ish on Monday evening for a general audience. Finally, he went into the Primary School to tell stories in the assembly, which was followed by a 'thank you' presentation to Gill Madley, shortly to leave the area. We were delighted to welcome back for the occasion Rev Barry and Sue Letson and Judy Cave, former Open the Book team members. These three people have left a great legacy of keeping Bible Storytelling alive, which the current team is happy to continue.

2019 is the 20th anniversary of the national Open the Book organization, now part of The Bible Society. As part of the celebrations, Brecon Cathedral will host storytellers from local teams who will be invited to a special service and tea in June. We benefit from the occasional meetings with the Co-ordinators from OtB Wales and the Bible Society, to exchange stories and ideas with other storytellers, always looking to improve what we do. The last one was conveniently held in Gilwern. We also receive newsletters and updates online.

We pledge to keep to the script and not use our own words when storytelling. This is because the stories have been approved by Offsted/Estyn and schools can be confident that we are not promoting a particular religious or denominational point of view and there is consistency wherever the stories are told. We are certainly privileged to be able to go into the school to share Bible stories and very much appreciate the welcome the school offers to us.

Alison Stedman

“OnlyBellsAloud” - Bell-Ringing Team

The dedicated band of ringers continued to chime the bells at St Edmunds every Sunday morning for the 10.45am services and for weddings and special occasions. Hannah Jones, as part of her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, continued to organise the Sunday rota and made a great job of it. Hannah, Rose, Molly, Bethan and Lucy continued to faithfully ring the bells on Sundays. During the year, 3 more young people, Anika, Lilli-May and Luna, joined the Sunday rota team. Fortunately for them, there were many weddings last year, so they, and Sam and Faith, all had the opportunity to ring for at least one wedding. The going rate of £15 per person was well-earned and welcome pocket-money!

Most members of TAB came monthly to the OBA practices and 2 former members of TAB have still been ringing the church bells with us regularly. A few more young people have started coming to OBA. The older teenagers enjoy teaching them and pair up with the newer ringers on Sunday mornings and for weddings to mentor them in their new roles. New ‘tunes’ are still being ‘composed’ and carols and worship songs being learned. Hannah Rogers still helps at every practice session. There are now so many young people (up to 10!) coming to practices that we can’t all fit in the tower at once, so half the group stay downstairs and play a board game together or just chat, while the others ring. After a short break for a drink and biscuit, they swap over. These relaxed times downstairs have sometimes been an opportunity for getting to know each other a bit better. The practices will continue on the 1st Thursday each month from 5.30–7pm. If you would like to have a go or want more information, please contact me on 01873 812093 or 07976 737665 or e-mail kerryadrian555@hotmail.com. We are still open to new ringers of any age if you’d like to learn – our ringers would love to teach you! I would also be grateful if someone could occasionally be available to help, as we sometimes need an extra adult for practice sessions. We look forward to welcoming you in the tower.

Kerry Andrews

“TotesAmazeBells” Youth Club Report 2018

‘TAB’, as our club is known, still meets every Thursday in the Parish Hall from 5.30 – 7pm, with the exception of the 1st Thursday in the month which is OBA (OnlyBellsAloud - see separate report). The age range is from 10 (year 6 pupils) to 14. There have been some newcomers who have built up the core group to 15, most of whom come most weeks (average 8 – 11). Altogether, throughout the year, 25 young people have been involved in one way or another, some coming for a few events like the summer BBQ, the pumpkin/light party, autumn bonfire and film nights, some come when they can get a lift in, others when they’re not involved in other activities (e.g. pantomime). A few have only been once or twice. The majority of the regulars are girls but the boys seem to enjoy being there too when they come, but it’s hard for them when their numbers are small and we don’t have any male leaders or helpers.

In January we, the leaders/helpers, ie. Kerry, Hannah R, Moseena and Hannah J, continued to meet once or twice a term to plan the sessions and share out the duties such as preparing the activities and brief Bible teachings/chats, bringing/preparing food and drinks etc and organising the games. Hannah J continued helping and successfully completed the volunteering section of her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. She enjoyed being with the young people so much that she has continued coming, as and when homework allows. We are very grateful for her help. In September, the 3 oldest members, Bethan, Rose and Molly felt they were getting too old for the group but didn’t want to leave, so they offered to be helpers. They are using this to gain experience of volunteering for their Bronze D of E and Welsh Bac Awards. Since then they have also contributed to planning meetings. I have been very aware that we are not fully meeting the needs of our older TAB members and am delighted that Suzanne and Ed Walker have started a Youth Alpha course for them (details of which are in another article).

Our club nights are quite varied. We still include activities like crafts, quizzes, making biscuits and cakes, and learning a bit about the Bible and various Christian events, and discussing social and other issues. For example, at our Pancake Party we discussed food poverty and brought food contributions for the food bank in

Abergavenny. We still write to and support the pen-pals in “Club 67” at the school in Rukungiri, Uganda. This year we raised money for them to have some sports equipment by making cakes and biscuits, which we sold in the High School.

In the summer, we welcomed members of the Lee Abbey Team who led an enjoyable evening with games and taught some Bible truths through a sketch and discussion. Several of the young people took part in the Holiday club in July and we had a great evening with team games and a challenge, followed by a BBQ. During the holiday, the young people wanted to continue to meet so we mostly went to the park and played games, making the most of the fine weather. In August, 9 young people tried out a day at the Christian Sports Camp at Brecon and can’t wait to go again next year, some may go for the whole week.

During the autumn, many young people came for the Pumpkin/Light Party, our alternative event to Halloween when we also welcomed a visit from Clare Morgan, the new Children’s, Youth and Families Officer for Greater Brecon. We all (literally!) got stuck into making pumpkin lanterns and glowed in the dark as we competed with fluorescent light games. The bonfire and hotdog night in November was a success too. This event and the BBQ were held in the garden, wood and barns of Kathy and Phil Keane. We are very grateful to them for allowing us to use their super facilities.

Several members of TAB made 2 trips to theatre productions which inspired them with their acting talents. In February, The Riding Lights Company performed “Where Adventure Begins” at St Catherine’s Church in Pontypridd, which made us think about how inclusive we are (not) to young people in church. We then went to the Beaufort Theatre in September and watched a brilliant production of “Joseph and his amazing technicolour dream-coat”. This vividly brought to life Joseph’s story which had been the theme for the holiday club and BBQ night. Members of TAB also really enjoy acting. On 3 occasions we wrote and practiced sketches which were performed in the All Age Worship services in St Edmunds. In the autumn, Bethan and Rose asked if they could write and direct the next Crib Service play. So, with a bit of support, “The Reporter’s tell the Nativity Story” came into being and was acted out well by 14 members of TAB – the

largest cast so far. We were grateful again for the support of those who managed the props, costumes, staging and audio/visual effects. A huge effort was made by everyone to bring this wonderful Christmas Message to our community and visitors. The church was packed and the performance was enjoyed by all.

Hand-bellringing still remains as part of the basis of our youth club. New-comers have learned quickly. The group played at a fund-raising event for St Edmunds and was in high demand again before Christmas, ringing at 2 venues in town for the Totally Locally event (having first decorated a Christmas tree for the competition!), and rang at Glaslyn Nursing Home and at a couple of carol services in the hospital and St Edmunds.

During 2019 we hope the group will develop further. We also plan to take them away for 2 weekends: the Gateway camp in July at Llangorse run by the Diocese and a weekend at Lee Abbey in October, which the Diocese is also partly funding. The young people are full of energy, questions, enthusiasm and great fun to be with. Please pray for the young people in TotesAmazeBells and Youth Alpha and the many who live in this area, that they may have the opportunity to hear God's amazing message of hope and love in this crazy world. They are under so many pressures and influences from their peers, the internet, home circumstances and academic expectations.

There is a real need for St Edmunds and the Ministry Area to appoint a paid Youth-worker as there is so much to do as we develop closer links with the High School and try to support these young people through this challenging stage of their lives. Steps were made last autumn to look into funding and hopefully appointing someone, but there is a lot more work to do and earnest prayer, before this can come into fruition. In the meantime, we would welcome more helpers and/or leaders in the coming months as the needs of the group are changing, so please consider if you could help occasionally or regularly, or share a skill or an activity with these young people. If you need more information, please do get in touch with me. We look forward to welcoming new young people and helpers into the group.

Kerry Andrews

Prayer Ministry “The mystery of prayer”

“We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the heavenly world, and can bring it’s power down to earth.”

Andrew Murray

The different pathways of prayer in the life of St. Edmund’s continue to be a significant part of our worship and intercession. The common factor among the different groups who pray, is ‘a sense of expectancy that God not only hears our prayers but responds as a true father to his children’. This report does not contain the Sum Total of all the prayer going up from St. Edmund’s Church.

Prayer Chain: A 24/7 response to urgent requests for prayer. The prayer chain continues to be an effective confidential resource that focusses a team of committed prayer partners on to specific situations that need God’s help. No fee ... just a phone call away.

Morning prayer: A weekly service on Tuesday at 8.30am at St. Edmunds, enabling us to share in the context of a short morning service, in a less formal setting with a wider opportunity for individuals to join together in communal prayer. Going now for nearly three years, but seems as fresh and lively as when we first started, providing a structure for us to focus prayer on a wide spectrum of shared areas of concern.

Prayer before the 10.45 service: this is an opportunity for all who would like to be part of a small group praying for 10 minutes or so before the service. It is simply an opportunity to ask God for his participation in our following time of worship and praise. We meet in the children’s corner at the back of the church at 10.15am.

Prayer with individuals after the 10.45 service: In the company of members of the prayer team, this provides an opportunity for anybody who has a specific need for prayer with the added confidential help of a couple of good friends. - It works!

Rennie & Melloney Gold

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast meets on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in every month in the Crickhowell Parish Hall at 8.00am. All men are welcome from any parish or denomination. We start with exchange of news etc. while eating hot croissants and rolls and drinking fruit juice and tea. Afterwards, one of us leads usually with a Bible reading of his choice and discussion. Requests for prayer are then asked for and a period of prayer follows. A convivial time is had by all. We usually finish about 10.00am leaving plenty of time for other activities. Any man wanting to come will be most welcome and for further information contact Richard 01873 810919.

Richard Crole-Rees

Mothers' Union

At the beginning of 2018 we decided to change the name of our branch. For several years we had been called Vale of Usk Mothers' Union but as we are now the only branch in the new Ministry Area it was decided that a change of name was appropriate and we are now known as St. Catwg's (Crickhowell) Ministry Area Mothers' Union. St. Catwg's for short! The change of name hasn't persuaded others to join but we continue to pray for more support and commitment of the work we do. Our 20 or so members are very loyal and dedicated to what the Mothers' Union is doing, not just in the UK but throughout the world.

Our Festivals, diocesan and deanery, were once again celebrated and thanks was given for the work of the past 6 years under the leadership of World Wide President, Lynne Tembey. During her 6 years in office Lynne has travelled to many remote places, particularly in Africa, to see at first hand what a difference MU is making to families who often have very meagre resources. If you think Mothers' Union is just a group of elderly ladies drinking tea you may wish to think again! With the support of these ladies Mothers' Union touched the lives of 750,000 worldwide in 2017 – since 2000

144,000 people have benefited from the Literacy and Education programme in Burundi and many more statistics bear witness to the work of Christian men and women improving lives in so many countries. At the same time they are also spreading the Gospel of Christ. The Mothers Union website will give more information.

Our programme in 2018 took us to several parts of the world including Peru, Uganda and Ethiopia. Rev Janet Russell lead a memorable Bible Study and Rana celebrated the Eucharist with us in St. Edmund's. We were very sad to lose Vera Powell, one of our longest serving and loyal members and all our members attended a packed church in Llangenny for her funeral service. Vera had lived in the area all her life and had a vast knowledge of the Crickhowell area.

Members from all over the UK and beyond attended the Annual Meeting in the Brangwyn Hall and St. Mary's Swansea over two days in September. This is only the second time the meeting has been held in Wales. It was a joyous occasion, the final one under Lynne Tembey's leadership. The new World Wide President, Sheran Harper, is from Guyana, the first non-UK Worldwide President for over 140 years. We look forward in faith, listening, observing and acting with God.

Ella Thomas, Branch Leader

Home Groups

Oak View Home Group

We must begin with an enormous thankyou to Peter and Gill Madley who led this group for many years before moving to Shrewsbury. The Group has continued this last six months on Wednesday evenings at seven p.m. at Oak View, the home of David and Brenda Gooding. We are pleased to have seen good attendance continue, with new members too!

We began the Autumn with The Bible Course, a new eight week video and teaching course covering the whole bible in outline. The success of the course was marked by a request from the wider

congregation for a repeat course during the day, and this 'satellite' group has attracted up to a dozen on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. It's been notable that the course invites all members to participate in discussion and prayer together in a refreshing way. Since the completion of The Bible Course we have been following Part 2 of the Pilgrim Course on The Lord's Prayer. This is a quite different study in more traditional style.

In conclusion, I want to mention a remark by one of our long standing members, who said, *'I love my Sunday worship, but if I'm honest it's here in my home group that my fellowship and faith is founded'* That's a challenge. Perhaps others might find joining one of our Home Groups the same.

Barry Roche

The Alternative Home Group.

So named, as we alternate our group meetings around our different homes. Over the past year we have been studying the Sermon on the Mount, Spiritual Gifts, various chapters from Acts and even The Twelve Days of Christmas. We do not meet on a regular basis but try to get together fortnightly. We start with tea, coffee and that very important biscuit and on special occasions, cake. We then move into worship and praise followed by open prayer. We try to draw to a close at around 9:30pm with more prayer and worship but we seldom manage to keep to this time.

During the year we have looked at questions such as "What are Spiritual Gifts?", "Mission", "Evangelism", "Unexpected Blessings", "The Importance of Obeying God's Law" and a lot more. We followed the whole series about Jesus's "Blessed are the...." and questions such as, "If the Old Testament did not exist, what would be missing in your knowledge of God?" or "What positive qualities of salt and light do you think Jesus had in mind as he spoke these words?", "What is the meaning of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" etc, and we are planning to continue looking at the book of Isaiah during the next couple of months and see where that will take us to next.

John Matty

Bryn Nant Home Group

Despite its name we have been a bit nomadic for several months, meeting at different members' homes because of my personal circumstances. We have been studying several of The Pilgrim Courses, The original course, The Beatitudes, The Lord's Prayer and have one study left of The Ten Commandments course. We love the format and they give us lots to talk about.

Our group meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm. Starting with refreshments, we usually have some church business to discuss as we are all involved with other aspects of church life – mainly fundraising and hospitality. We aim to start the study before 8pm and to finish between 9.30 and 10pm. We end with prayer which gives us the opportunity to discuss anything personal and pray for each other. We meet every week, including through the summer holidays, we would all miss it if we didn't. We take this opportunity to do things we don't have the opportunity to do through the rest of the year. Watch a film or TV programme we have recorded or discuss one-off subjects, just have an impromptu worship sing-a-long or sometimes we just open a bottle of wine and call it a social evening!

Kathryn Bullon

Mission Group Report

The Mission Group terms of reference are:

"We are members of St Edmund's Church community, drawn together by a common purpose to:

- Share with others the love of Christ that we have received*
- To encourage interest and supportive prayer by the church community in the work of mission near home and further afield*
- To encourage the church community to be involved in mission in some form wherever they are as God has given us responsibility."*

During 2018, as a church we have continued to be involved in local mission, with the Ministry Area in May when the Lee Abbey team came for ten days and in community activities such as The Walking

Festival (March), Open Studios weekend (May), Holy Week (April), The Duck Race (July), Totally Locally and the Literary Festival (Oct). We have continued to support the children and families work with weekly Open the Book stories in the Primary School, monthly Messy Church, termly Under 5 and Cubs and special events to celebrate annual festivals.

Following Alison's visit in June 2017, the Connected Church partnership with Ethiopia has been maintained, with quarterly information bulletins posted on the Mission Board in church. Drs. Carl and Sally Venn, training health workers in India, have survived a difficult time obtaining visas to return several times a year. Their September re-entry was smoother and they reported successful training programmes and refresher courses for those trained three years ago. We financially contribute annually to their health work under the umbrella of OM in Hyderabad.

Judith, who has been in Pakistan now for 26 years, did not make her annual visit to Crickhowell in 2018 as she needed to do deputation in New Zealand. The difficult decision to close the Christian school in 2018 was made on grounds of insufficient funds. The vision of a Tuition Center is now coming to fruition. Starting with 20 children this is an ambitious project needing £18,000, to incorporate teaching rooms, the Kunri Crafts, a library, computer room and room for people with disabilities.

Initiated by the Mission Group, St Edmund's now sends quarterly donations to the Brecon Food Bank, for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and summer. These have been gratefully received and our generosity acknowledged. This year we were part of a new initiative to prepare Christmas parcels for specific households, enabling Christmas presents, fresh and frozen food to be included. Church members responded very generously as usual.

Our new partnership with CMS has been formed with a couple who are working with Anglican Alliance in Jordan on development work, Joel and Fiona Kelling. We have made email contact and recently received the first message from them. (See the Mission notice board.) Their ministry covers a large area in the Middle East. We look forward to a close partnership with them. Some folk attended

the annual CMS conference in Llangasty in the summer.

We are contributing to the training of a second year student in St Thomas's Theological College in Pakistan and recently received a report on his progress. Rana has shared his vision that St Edmund's Church will be a hub for linking mission partners from the UK and abroad and being facilitators for other churches to be involved in Mission. Last year we had a visit from the Archbishop of N India, the Lee Abbey international team in May, links with Norway in the summer, also S Korea. We anticipate a visit from a Norwegian church team next May. Earlier in the year we were encouraged by a visit from a young woman from Chile for Christ. In October, Alison was invited to represent Tearfund at the morning service of a large Cardiff church, which aimed to raise the profile of mission. During the service the congregation had the opportunity to talk to representatives of about a dozen Mission organisations. This is something we have discussed with Rana, to perhaps use this model to increase our support at a weekend mission focus in St Edmund's.

Dentaid is a new mission connection for St Edmund's; Ed and Suzanne Walker went to Sri Lanka in September to offer dental services and oral hygiene education in various centres on the island. They reported back to the church at a mission evening held on 30 October to a large and interested audience. This personal contact brings such missions alive and meaningful for people here.

In November the tithe of £6,500 was shared between the mission opportunities St Edmund's supports. Most supported organisations have a representative within the church to provide us with informed contact. In addition, we have made the usual annual additional collections during the year: Shelter Cymru at Christmas, St David's Hospice at the Star Service, Tearfund at Harvest and Christian Aid during Open Studios weekend. Mission in many forms is at the heart of our ministry in St Edmund's and through your generosity we are able to be a part of a worldwide church.

*Alison Stedman, on
behalf of Melloney Gold, Sarah Powell, Ed Walker, Rev Rana Khan.*

Rukungiri Orphan Partnership

Rukungiri Orphan Partnership has been a registered charity for 12 years this month and we are grateful for the fact that we have been able to keep going through the financial difficulties nationwide during this time. St Edmund's has faithfully helped us with donations and some of the congregation have sponsored children in the school over many years. The primary school in Rukungiri, SW Uganda, has done well in the national exams again this year because the teachers and headmaster are very dedicated. There are always some problems such as food shortages when there has been both drought and a severe hailstorm which ruined the crops. However, so far, Alice and John have managed to get enough food to feed the approximately 1,000 children and staff in the primary and nursery schools. Also, one of the teachers was badly injured when he was knocked down by a motorcycle but he has recovered enough to start back to work this month.

Our project for this past year has been to replace the pit latrines that the girls use which is now full. Work on the toilet block should be going ahead now and hopefully we will get photos of it when it is complete. I hope to be visiting Rukungiri later in the year to keep up to date with all that's going on out there. Thank you.

Judy Cave.

Friends of St Edmund's Church

The Membership of the Friends is made up of 52 couples and individuals including, families who are honorary Friends through baptism and newly married couples, as well as some members of the church and friends from our local community. It would be lovely to welcome more "honorary" Friends in becoming full-time supporters of the Friends scheme. We have sufficient funds in the Friends bank account to support the cost of replacing the inner porch doors - a project we are eagerly anticipating being completed reasonably soon.

Kaye Bennett

Safeguarding

The safeguarding policy displayed in the church was renewed by the PCC in September. A copy of the full policy is available on the church in Wales website and in the back of the church. All PCC members and other church members who hold a DBS need to be renewed after 3 years. The date can be found on your personal certificate. This also applies if you have registered with the update service. New forms are available from Katy Tutt in the MA office.

The replacement for Peter Doyle, the Provincial Safeguarding Officer is still under review and any urgent concerns should be referred to Elaine Cloke in the Cardiff Office.

Sherill Worgan

Church Wardens' Reports

Rector's Warden

I am again grateful for the opportunity that the Annual Report gives me to formally record my thanks to the members of both congregations for their continued support. Without such a high and sustained level of commitment my role would be so much more difficult and our church would be a poorer place. This year a few more volunteers have come forward to help with the vital duties of sides persons, readers, intercessors, Eucharistic assistants and the equally important job of providing refreshments after the 10:45 service and at various other functions. However, there is always a need for more helpers to share the load, so if you feel that you can contribute in any way please contact Rev. Rana or myself. Also very much appreciated is the contribution of the small but dedicated team who open and close our lovely church for both locals and visitors to enjoy (all of whom have been carrying out these duties for many years!) The comments received, both written and verbal, emphasise the rewards of an open Church. Finally, it's been enjoyable working closely with Martin for the past six years, and I would like to pass on my best wishes to him for his long-awaited "retirement".

Sue Foster

People's Warden

Again this has been a busy year with regard to fabric matters. In particular, Brenda and Ros, with support from Eric Gower, have spent many hours working on the major roof repair project over the nave, north and south aisles. We have been involved with the appointed Architect in the selection of contractor and the acquisition of funding to carry out the work and let's not forget the dreaded faculty application. This project also includes the replacing of the wooden inner west doors with glass doors and also the installation of an electronic BLE Beacons information system which will provide information about the church electronically to visitors. I would very much like to thank Brenda, Ros and Eric for the many hours they have put into this project. They certainly deserve our praise and thanks. Roof repairs are due to start in March 2019. There have been a number of minor fabric matters undertaken but one which was much welcomed was the re-fashioning of the ramp to the west door which gives easier access to wheelchair and motorised scooter users.

This is also the year of the Quinquennial Inspection and the resulting report raises a number of fabric matters which need to be addressed over the coming five years. There is much to be done and money needs to be raised in order to do it. During the latter months of the year, you could not have entered the church room without noticing the fact that rain water had been entering over the lobby door. This was due to the fact that the lead, over the flat roof, had been stolen. Unfortunately, this matter has taken some time to resolve but work has now been undertaken to stop the ingress of water. Repairs and redecoration of internal wall services will soon be underway.

I must again comment on how popular St Edmund's has become as the Church of choice for couples getting married. During this year we had 10 weddings once again. The Church continues to support local and other organisations as a venue for their events. Events this year included a Concert and Tea held on behalf of Brecknock Sinfonia, a Music Festival by the Crickhowell Choral Society, an Arts and Craft Exhibition held during the Crickhowell Arts Trail and Open Studios Exhibition, a book launch during the Literary Festival, Pilgrimage of Music, Clergy Spouses' Conference, the Crickhowell High School "Christmas at Crickhowell", and a Community Carol Service held by

the Crickhowell Choral Society.

I would like to thank all those who have helped and supported me, during the year, with a special thanks to the members of the PCC and all those who have given their knowledge and skills free of charge for the benefit of the Church. It has been very much appreciated.

Anthony Silwood

Buildings Report

The focus of building work during this year has been addressing the major problem with the roof at the West end of the church. An application had been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and at the start of April 2018 we received confirmation that we had been awarded a grant of £76,000. With funds available from our own funds this was, initially, good news. One of the conditions of the grant is that all work is completed by April 2020. We also needed to have all funds in place in order to be given permission to start by HLF. The grant offer required certain minor works to be included, one of which was the restoration of the effigies of Sir Grimbald and Lady Sybil Pauncefoot. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain a faculty for this work so there was a delay while we sought permission to remove this work from the contract. The other Heritage projects include a new pair of inner doors at the West end of the church and an electronics project to communicate the heritage of the church to our community and visitors.

We had a major setback when we went out to tender for the roof work and the prices came in at almost double the figure that we had originally been advised. However, this did cover extra work. This left us with a great shortfall in funds and we have had to apply for extra grants to be able to put us in a position to start the work. We are still awaiting the outcome of one application but we have secured a loan which has allowed us to get permission to start the project. This permission was granted in January 2019. Work has started on the roof in March and other small projects started at the same time.

Other than the major focus there has been general maintenance work carried out and more work on the porch roof at the east end because its lead had been stolen. The team involved with the audio

visual system have made improvements, including providing a monitor which works in conjunction with the screen, so that those leading services can see the monitor and know what the congregation can see on the main screen.

Brenda Gooding

Fundraising

We had a great day out in Bath and it didn't rain!! We raised £773.00 for church funds. The Bear coffee morning raised £610.00; it was well attended. Both of these events attracted a high proportion of non church members, so success all round. The total raised at these two events brings the total raised this year to £5,009.00. A big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported all the fundraising events in 2018. The team are now planning various events for the coming year, including another Spring Flower event, a Coach Trip, a Cheese and Wine evening with essential oils as the topic and, on June 14th, the Beaufort Male Choir will be singing in St Edmund's.

Kathryn Bullon

Treasurer's Report

This is my sixteenth and final Financial Review. I first became Treasurer when Rev. Jonathan Vickery was Rector in 2002. At that time, the cost of Quota – Parish Share was £25,270 pa and it has now risen to £53,666 pa. A more important comparison is that Planned Giving was £44,345 in 2002 against £64,063 in 2018. In percentage terms, Planned Giving was 57% of Parish Share in 2002 against 84% last year. In short, we are reliant more and more on Fundraising to cover costs. OUR GIVINGS NEED TO INCREASE to a minimum of £12 per week per person – PLEASE REVIEW AND ADJUST YOUR GIVINGS.

By close management we have been able to control our costs to a reasonable level: £49,000 in 2002 to £90,000 in 2018, bearing in mind our major cost of Parish Share has increased by £28,000 over the period. In line with church policy of giving 10% of direct giving to Mission, this figure totaled £7,500 in 2018.

I thank you all for your support over the last sixteen years and appreciate that my remarks over this period have majored on increased givings. I hope the above figures will explain the need for this.

Finally, I wish to thank Vaughan Bennett and Phil Reed for their support over the years.

Martin James

ST EDMUNDS CHURCH, CRICKHOWELL

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING

31st DECEMBER 2018

***Vaughan I Bennett, Accountant
Crickhowell
Powys***

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST EDMUNDS CHURCH, CRICKHOWELL

I report on the accounts of the Parish for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and examiner

The PCC's members are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC's members consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Charities Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the parish and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as the members of the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, **no** matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;

have not been met; or

2. to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Vaughan Ian Bennett
Accountant
47 Oakfield Drive, Crickhowell,
POWYS NP8 1DR

February 2019

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - ST EDMUNDS, CRICKHOWELL

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Note	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors & Prepayments		322	127
Income Tax Refunds Due		2,858	3,005
Income Held by SBDT (Hilliard Trust)		52	41
National Savings		5,263	5,225
Bank Balances		60,908	74,259
		<u>£69,403</u>	<u>£82,657</u>
Deduct: CURRENT LIABILITIES (creditors due within one year)			
Creditors		<u>1,245</u>	<u>2,094</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		68,157	80,562
		<u>£68,157</u>	<u>£80,562</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
		<u>£68,157</u>	<u>£80,562</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
Accumulated Resources (Unrestricted)	9	30,582	28,032
Fabric Repair Fund	10	24,454	35,546
Restricted Fund: Youth Worker	4b	13,121	16,184
Restricted Fund: JE Price Bequest	11	0	800
		<u>£68,157</u>	<u>£80,562</u>

Martin James

Hon. Treasurer

February 2019

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - ST EDMUNDS, CRICKHOWELL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	N o t e	2018 Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	2017 Total
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from donors					
Direct Giving:planned					
other					
Indirect Giving - Income tax refunds		50,448		50,448	48,165
Special Appeals: for the Worldwide Church		5,056		5,056	4,932
		13,615		13,615	12,012
Income from Investments					
Bank interest & Investment Income	4	4,722	9,707	14,429	13,484
Income from charitable & ancillary trading					
Fund Raising			85	85	39
Other Ordinary Incoming Resources					
Other Income	2	4,541		4,541	4,702
	1	4,079		4,079	4,031
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>£82,546</u>	<u>£9,707</u>	<u>£92,253</u>	<u>£87,365</u>
RESOURCES USED					
Activities directly relating to the work of the church					
Giving outside the Parish(Special Appeals)	3	6,450		6,450	4,605
Mission in the Church	7	3,936	9,707	13,643	11,700
Social Concern	4	3,300		3,300	2,439
Church management & administration					
Maintenance of Ministry:Quota (net of £2,644 refund 2017)		51,022		51,022	48,159
Maintenance of Church	5	10,715		10,715	11,400
Maintenance of Services	6	1,683		1,683	1,584
Parochial Expenses		3,098		3,098	430
General Parish Expenses	8	592		592	976
Capital Expenditure (Chairs)		0		0	3,212
TOTAL		<u>£80,796</u>	<u>£9,707</u>	<u>£90,503</u>	<u>£84,505</u>
EXPENDITURE		1,750	0	1,750	2,860
RE NET					
RESOURCES					
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS					
Transfer from J E Price Fund		800	(800)	0	0
Transfer to Fabric Repair Fund		0		0	0
		<u>£800</u>	<u>(£800)</u>	<u>£0</u>	<u>£0</u>
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		2,550	(800)	1,750	2,860
UNREALISED GAINS AND LOSSES ON			0	0	0
INVESTMENTS NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		<u>£2,550</u>	<u>(£800)</u>	<u>£1,750</u>	<u>£2,860</u>

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - ST EDMUNDS, CRICKHOWELL

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - 31 DECEMBER 2018

	2018	2017
1 Other Income		
Weddings & Funerals	<u>4,079</u>	<u>4,031</u>
	<u>£4,079</u>	<u>£4,031</u>
2 Fund Raising		
Cheltenham/Bath Trips	943	1,017
Cake & Co	0	39
Harvest Supper	66	0
Flower Arranging	739	266
Church Stall/Craft Fair	0	478
Prints & Postcards	234	0
Coffee Mornings	2,084	2,053
Church Hire	<u>475</u>	<u>849</u>
	<u>£4,541</u>	<u>£4,702</u>
3 Special Appeals		2017
(Mission giving outside the Parish)	Received	Paid
Association of Evangelists	200	0
Awareness Foundation	400	0
Brecon Street Pastors	200	200
CMS	550	400
Carl & Sally Venn Indian Charity	500	500
Chile for Christ	400	400
S & B Board of Social Responsibility	150	150
Embrace the Middle East	200	200
Faith in Families	300	300
Himlit	300	0
Messy Church	150	150
Metropolitan Mission	(200)	200
Rakungirli Orphan & Vocational Project	400	400
Kunri Krafts	400	400
Kalka Care Home	400	400
Mothers Union Emergency relief	400	400
St Thomas Theological College	1,000	0
United Beach Mission	200	0
Tear Fund		500
	<u>500</u>	<u>505</u>
	<u>£6,450</u>	<u>£4,605</u>

Other Collections were taken during the year for e.g. Christian Aid etc. These funds were received by the charities directly and did not pass through the Church Accounts.

4 (a) Other Income- exceptional items	Received	Paid	Balance	2017
Shelter Cymru	644	650	(6)	(54)
St David's Hospice	328	350	(22)	(35)
Usk House, Brecon		200	(200)	(150)
Open the Book		150	(150)	(150)
Womens' Refuge, Brecon		200	(200)	(150)
Dial a Ride		200	(200)	(150)
St Catwyg Ministry Area		300	(300)	0
British Legion	1,250	1,250	0	0
Miscellaneous Donations	2,500		2,500	1,406
	£4,722	£3,300	£1,422	£717
(b) Youth Worker Appeal	16,184			
Donations Received	6,644			
	22,828			
Less Expenditure	(9,707)			
Carried forward to 2019	£13,121			
	2018			2017
5 Maintenance of Church				
Gas, Electricity & Water		4,155		3,923
Insurance		2,096		1,995
Maintenance, Cleaning etc		4,464		5,482
		£10,715		£11,400
6 Maintenance of Services				
Sacristy, Organ & Worship Group		1,683		1,369
Xmas Services Promotion (Card Distribution)		0		215
Hymn Books & Other Resources		0		0
		£1,683		£1,584
	Income	Expense	Net	2017
7 Mission in the Church				
Children & Youth		390	(390)	(336)
Holiday Club		139	(139)	(44)
Parish Hall Hire (net of Men' Breakfast Club Contribution)		1,185	(1,185)	(570)
Advertising		220	(220)	(88)
Speakers		876	(876)	(140)
Magazine	330	325	5	4
Easter Lilies	20	0	20	6
Telephone & Broadband		370	(370)	
Secretarial Expenses		0	0	0
Ministry Area Travel		531	(531)	
Training		145	(145)	(120)
Gifts		65	(65)	(30)
Publications		40	(40)	(54)
	£350	£4,286	(£3,936)	(£1,372)

	2018	2017
8 General Parish Expenses		
Printing, Stationery & Postage	382	607
Photocopy Lease	210	369
	<u>£592</u>	<u>£976</u>
9 Accumulated Fund		
Balance as at 31 December 2017	28,032	24,867
Surplus for the Year	2,550	3,165
	<u>£30,582</u>	<u>£28,032</u>
10 Fabric Repair Fund		
Balance as at 31 December 2017	35,546	19,249
Transfer from General Fund	0	0
VAT Refund (re 2016 expenditure)	0	2,321
Donations Received - General	6,985	17,223
Friends	1,284	1,133
	<u>43,815</u>	<u>39,926</u>
Expenditure:		
Clock	0	
Grimbald Restoration	(100)	
Roof Repairs	(19,261)	
Lighting System	0	
	<u>0</u>	
	0	
	(4,380)	
	<u>0</u>	
Balance as at 31 December 2018	<u>£24,454</u>	
	<u>£35,546</u>	
11 J E Price Bequest		
Balance as at 31 December 2017	800	1,105
Less transfer to General Fund (Churchyard Mtce)	(800)	(305)
Balance as at 31 December 2018	<u>£0</u>	<u>£800</u>
12 Miss A M Hilliard Trust		

The market value of of the 217 Units held in the above fund at 31st December 2018 was £345.39 (2017:£381.55)

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell
Annual Vestry Meeting
Sunday 7th April 2019 at 9.45am
Agenda

- 1) Opening Prayers**
- 2) Apologies:** Sue and Alan Foster
- 3) Minutes of the 2018 Annual Vestry Meeting**
- 4) Annual Report for 2018**
- 5) The revised Electoral Roll**
- 6) Financial Report**
- 7) Review and renewal of Safeguarding Policy**
- 8) Elections and Appointments**
 - Rector's Warden**
 - People's Warden**
 - PCC Nominations**
 - Ministry Area Council Representative**
- 9) Triennial Elections**
 - Diocesan Conference**
 - Deanery Conference**
- 10) Appointment of Independent Examiner**
- 11) Presentation**
- 12) Any other business (for which prior notice has been given)**

St Edmund's Church, Crickhowell

Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday 22nd April 2018 at 11.00am

Minutes of the Meeting

Opening Prayers: Were led by Rev. Rana Khan, who then briefly explained the history of the AVM, and the fact that the Church of England separates the AVM from an Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Apologies: Helen and Anthony Seys Llewellyn, Peter Madley, Brenda and David Gooding, Hannah Jones, Suzanne and Ed Walker. **There were 42 people present.**

1. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Vestry Meeting : were agreed with no comments or amendments, and duly signed by the Rector.

2. Elections and Appointments:

- a. **Rector's Warden:** Sue Foster has duly been re-appointed by the Rector, and continues to be an ex officio member of the PCC.
- b. **People's Warden:** Anthony Silwood was nominated by Julian Stedman, seconded by Rosalind Matty and unanimously re-elected by church members present.

3. Annual Report for 2017: The Rector introduced the 2017 Annual Report, assuming that everyone had read the contents. There were no questions or comments, and Peter Madley was thanked for collating the report which he has been doing for at least the last 12 years. When Peter moves away this year it is anticipated that Julian Stedman will take over the role of collating the Annual Report. **The 2017 Annual Report was accepted by all those present.**

4. **Financial Report:** Martin James (Hon Treasurer) introduced the 2017 Financial Report by stating that 2017 had been a satisfactory year and he complimented the Fundraising Team who had raised £4,700 during the year. In addition we received a Parish Share rebate of £6,629, and a legacy of £10,000 which is in the Fabric Fund. Without the Fundraising Team's hard work, and the rebate from the Parish Share we would have sustained a loss.
5. **Expenditure** amounted to £74,000 of which £48,000 went to the Parish Share, and £6,000 to the Mission Fund. Running costs have been sustainable although the Town Council no longer cut the grass in the churchyard; projected cost for this will be £700 to £1000 per annum.
6. However, 2018 is unlikely to be as comfortable as 2017 as our Parish Share increases by 5% to £53,666 (£300 per month) however we have just heard that will now receive a rebate of 4% for 2018 which is already in the bank.
7. MJ then took questions:-
8. Do we give to a charity? Yes, we give 10% of our income to designated charities.
9. Gill Madley is concerned that St Edmunds is being penalised financially for having a better income than most other churches. Martin responded that this was so, but that it is being addressed and in future we will be reviewed as a Ministry Area rather than in isolation, so from 2019 our Parish Share will be down and we will be better off.
10. The Rector then thanked Martin for his input into Diocesan future planning.
11. **The revised Electoral Roll:** Ruth Griffiths, the Electoral Roll Officer, informed those present that there are 93 people on the Roll; she has removed three people and added five new people.
12. **Review and renewal of Safeguarding Policy:** The Rector invited Sherill Worgan (St Edmunds Safe Guarding Officer) to update those present on St Edmund's achievement in becoming a Safe Church. Sherill

is also a Safe Guarding Champion for the Diocese, and sits on the Provincial Safe Guarding Committee. The PCC review the Safe Guarding Policy annually, and a Safe Guarding notice is in a prominent spot on the notice board at the back of church. St Edmund's now has a Safeguarding Training Certificate, and relevant church members and the PCC are all DBS checked and have completed Safeguarding training.

13. **PCC Nominations:** 10 people had been proposed and seconded and were unanimously elected to the new PCC (see attached sheet for details) There were no further nominations. The new PCC consists of 10 elected members, and six ex-officio members.

14. **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Vaughan Bennett has agreed to continue to act as Independent Examiner. He was thanked for his invaluable role in the life of the Church.

15. **Any other business (for which prior notice has been given):**

- Julie Jackson asked whether the Church contributed to a Food Bank and was reassured that we did.
- Rev. Sally Rees asked whether the AVM should accept the proposal that the 9.30am service be discontinued as today is the last 9.30 service. This was confirmed by the Rector, and in future there will be a non-Eucharistic service held once a month at both 8.00am and 10.45.
- Roger White asked that there should continue to be opportunities for the two congregations to share worship, as he has enjoyed the positivity of the joint service.

The Rector asked for a vote of thanks to be minuted for all those involved in any aspect of the life of the church. He then closed the meeting at 11.45am.

Signed:

Dated:

Position: