

THE DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
BOLTON DEANERY

**THE PARISH OF SEVEN SAINTS,
NEW BURY WITH GREAT LEVER**



Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year beginning 1st January 2017 and ending 31st December 2017

Ministers

Team Rector:

Rev. Mark Cowling (from 17 September 2017)

Seven Saints Rectory

130a Highfield Road,
Farnworth, Bolton BL4 0AJ

Associate Rector

Rev. Jane Greenhalgh

The Vicarage

195 Harrowby Street,
Farnworth, Bolton BL4 9QU

Team Ministers:

Rev. Sarah Fletcher (Stipendiary Curate) (until 9 July 2017)

Rev. Alison Comber OLM (retired)

Rev. Tony Cowell OLM

Rev. Joan Nicholls (OLM Curate)

Mr Peter Lemi (Licensed Reader)

Methodist Link

Rev. Darren Garfield

Pentecostal Minister

Rev. Stephen Garner

Evangelism Project Officer

Sr. Dorothy Needham CA

Bank

The Co-operative Bank

Charity Registration Number: 1134133

Parish of Seven Saints, New Bury with Great Lever

The Parish is a single parish Team ministry covering the area of South Farnworth and Great Lever in Bolton; it is part of the Deanery of Bolton and the Diocese of Manchester. It came into being on October 10th 2011 by the joining of the former parishes of Five Saints and SS Simon and Jude’s. The population is approx. 31,000; and there are high levels of deprivation. The Parish is mainly residential with some large council estates and an industrial and commercial corridor along Manchester Road and the northern section of the parish.

There are 4 centres of worship in the Team.

- St Catherine’s Church in Highfield & Community Hall (Anglican/Methodist LEP)
- St George with St James Church and Hall - Plodder Lane
- St Michael with St Bartholomew Parish Church
- SS Simon and Jude’s School, Newport Road Great Lever

The Electoral Roll at the APCM in 2017 was 202

The average Weekly attendance was - over 16’s Under 16’s	2015	2016	2017
	205	204	206
	103	98	121

There are 4 church schools in the parish – St James CE Secondary Voluntary Aided, St James CE Primary Voluntary Controlled, St Michael’s CE Primary Voluntary Aided and SS Simon and Jude CE Primary Academy

Priorities:

Priority 1 - We will enhance the attractiveness of our worship communities – offering a range of distinctive congregations and communities (including traditional, modern and family friendly). We will welcome baptism, funeral and wedding families into our church families; and we will ensure that our welcome and activities genuinely show that “no-one is excluded”
Priority 2 - We seek to deepen the prayer and spiritual life of the parish, and ourselves. We will do this through our collective worship, through being involved in small groups and through our private prayer and study
Priority 3 - We will maintain and build on our work with children, young people, and young adults. We will resource Messy Church through the staffing transition and beyond. We will ensure that children are welcomed and included at all services, but at the same time we will have good quality alternative worship provision that focuses on children (while welcoming and including adults).
Priority 4 We will improve the future viability of the parish through improving our finances and completing repairs and improvements to our buildings.

Mission Statement

- Being Jesus** – in how we live our lives.
- Enjoying Jesus** – as we worship and share fellowship together.
- Sharing Jesus** – by our words and actions.
- Through Jesus** – we recognise we can do nothing without Jesus in our lives.
- ... the **B.E.S.T.** that we can be.

This Vision will be the focus of all we do – it will inform how we plan our services and other events, how we use our resources (time, buildings, money), how we pray both collectively and individually, and how we engage with our neighbourhood and the wider world.

- Web Site: www.sevensaints.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/SevenSaintsTeam
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/SevenSaintsTeam

SEVEN SAINTS CHURCH COUNCIL 2017

	SS Simon and Jude	St Catherine	St Michael	St George
Warden	A Stott	Mr A Gibbons	A Cheetham	R Tyler
Deputy Warden	D Lyons	S Smith	E Guest-Evans	
Deanery Synod	V Holden	Mr A Gibbons		
PCC	S Crank S Bowerbank	M Caughey T Goddard Mrs A Gibbons	M Moulton H Butler	C Faulkner E Vining J Wilson
Stewardship	P Lyons Val Holden S Bowerbank	J Fairbrother T Goddard	K Crossley	A Jackson B Boardman D Draper
Pastoral	R Whitham C Hopwood	C Lee S Smith	P Darwell A Parr V Senior	C Faulkner E Vining
Mission	N Osypanki A Stott	Mrs A Gibbons	M Brockie K Crossley	L Durosomo R Bridge
Verger	M Burke	S Smith	A Cheetham	S Tonge
Societies and Noticeboard Rep	S Bowerbank	J Fairbrother	E Guest-Evans	O Lee
Methodist Circuit Reps: Mr A Gibbons, S Smith, (J Fairbrother)				
Methodist Youth Forum: Mrs A Gibbons				

Electoral Roll Officer: Christine Faulkner

P. C.C. Treasurer: Tim Goddard

P. C. C. Secretary: Andrea Gibbons

Vice Chair: Stella Crank

(Team Clergy are ex-officio on the P.C.C. and the Teams above)

PCC REPORT

PCC met 5 times during 2017 to oversee the work of the action teams and to consider major issues within the parish.

Following research and recommendations from the Stewardship Team we approved a number of changes to our financial systems this year :-

- We set up a parish charge card for use by clergy only for on-line purchasing. Not only do clergy no longer need to use their own credit cards but we have clearer audit trails.
- We reviewed and updated the signatories on the parish bank account, as several of the previous signatories had moved on.
- We agreed that the existing auditor provided value for money and agreed to continue with his services.
- We agreed to invest the St James graveyard fund. This should ensure that this restricted fund will still meet the costs of the closed graveyard for future generations.

We had oversight of the development of our Mission Action Plan by the Mission Team and in April we approved the plan which is now being implemented.

We started discussions about the reinstatement of Sunday School at St George's, and we gave approval, in line with policy, for 2 young people under 16 to be confirmed with a group of adults.

We agreed for an area of St Michael's graveyard to be used for new ashes plots. And we discussed our duty of pastoral care for the parish OLMs.

We said goodbye to another colleague this year, as our Curate Rev Sarah Fletcher moved to her first incumbency in July 2017. But we were pleased to welcome our new Team Rector Rev Mark Cowling in September 2017.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM REPORT

Stewardship Team met 4 times in 2017 to oversee the finances of the parish and the fabric of our buildings.

We worked closely with PCC on changes to parish financial systems – these are noted in the PCC report.

Other areas of finance that we worked on included :-

- We oversaw a successful significant insurance claim at St George's following burst heating pipes.
- We discussed fund raising at St George's for minor improvements and more importantly for the major roof works due in 2018.

We noted issues with sound systems at three of our churches at various times in 2017 – these are being kept under review and we will work towards appropriate solutions in 2018.

We approved the release, at the request of the diocese, for the Green Lane Vicarage for use by a neighbouring parish.

We approved the use of St Catherine's by a Community Toddler Group, now that the parish no longer runs its own toddler group. And we worked with the Sudanese Fellowship, with which we have longstanding relations, to raise money for the ongoing crisis in Sudan in early 2017.

MISSION TEAM REPORT

Mission Team met 5 times in 2017 to lead and encourage the parish in mission and discipleship.

Our main focus at the start of the year was to complete the parish Mission Action Plan (MAP), and we were pleased when PCC approved the final version in April. We were then able to move our focus onto driving forward the delivery of the MAP.

For Holy Week we set up and supported the running of Way of the Cross Prayer Stations at St Michael's for their open week.

We engaged for the second year running with Thy Kingdom Come. We supported clergy to preach on prayer, we used social media to promote prayer and reflection throughout the week, and we had a day of prayer at St George's with all-age interactive prayer stations.

In response to the Manchester Arena bombing we opened St Catherine's for people to drop in to pray, light a candle and to talk with clergy. We shared materials with our church schools for them to use with children of all ages and made ourselves available where needed. And made prayers, reflections and support available to the wider community through social media.

Following on from the bombing we asked Pastoral Team to work with us to review what resources we have available for future emergencies as part of our emergency response plan.

Throughout the year we planned and organised a number of social events to which we could invite people from our local communities.

PASTORAL TEAM REPORT

Pastoral Team met 3 times in 2017 to pray for our churches and parish and to find ways to encourage others to grow in their faith and prayer life.

We continued to pray for and visit the sick and the housebound, and where appropriate to take home communion. We also continued to take Communion into a number of the care homes in the parish, though relationships at others have become strained due to changes in staff.

We continued to encourage the churches to include prayer and anointing for healing as part of services – this has been well received at some churches. And we continued to support the prayer group at St James Primary School.

The second half of the year was spent reflecting on how we can broaden our remit. We started to look at how we could connect with new people coming to our churches to make them feel more welcome and to help them to integrate. We are looking for suitable training in pastoral care than could be offered to the team and beyond. And we set up a monthly meditation group to start to help people deepen their spirituality.

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Parish reps and clergy attended Deanery Synod meetings throughout the year. We listened to presentations and joined in discussions on work with refugees and asylum seekers, and also on vocations with a special focus on the vocations of younger people.

We were involved in discussions to draft the Deanery Mission Action Plan. And at the start of the year we enjoyed Communion with the (then) new Bishop of Bolton at Smithills Hall Chapel.

METHODIST CIRCUIT REPORT 2017

Ministers

Revd D Garfield

Revd P Brooks

Until June 2017

Revd S Wild

From September 2017

Revd P Brown

Revd T Sibanda

Revd Jane Greenhalgh Authorised Presbyter at St Catherine's LEP

Lay Staff

- Sally Cooper, Naomi Sharp and Jeanette Roberts-Fox remained in their roles.
- Circuit Stewards remained the same: Ian Lord (Treasurer), Kathryn Ogden & Susan Beswick (Personnel), Alan Hartley (Property), Dawn Lancashire (Spirituality & Prayer), Helen Bolton

Youth Work

- Unite Youth group continued to meet regularly but is no longer Circuit led. Sports Mission led by Gezz Collingborne continued in Little Lever.
- Several Messy Church events have successfully taken place during the year as did Holiday Clubs during the Summer holidays.
- MakeLunch – a project to tackle holiday hunger in school children began one day a week, during school holidays at Wharton & Cleggs Lane Church.

Community Work

- The Men's group at Cleggs Lane continues to thrive as does the Foodbank and community Cafe.
- Knit and Natter at Kearsley Mount continues to be well attended and Circle Dancing for Dementia at Christ Church goes from strength to strength.
- The 7pm Thursday communion service at St Catherine's LEP continues to grow in numbers.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS REPORT

Two new Safeguarding Officers, Lesley Durosomo and Rachel Bridge were appointed this year.

We are happy to note that no safeguarding issues have been brought to our attention this year. However, we continue to have a number of people need to renew their DBS checks and to complete the required on-line training.

Team Rector: Rev. Mark Cowling

Date: 22 April 2018