



allsaintsworcester
ANNUAL REVIEW 2016

joining with God in the
renewal of all things

CONTENTS

Introduction & Vicar's Report	4
PCC	5
Safeguarding	6
Pastoral Care	7
Prayer ministry	7
Worship team	8
Children & Families	9
Mainly Music	10
Students & 18-30s	11
Men's Ministry	12
Revive - Women's Ministry	12
Mission Partners	13
PhotoFit	14
5-a-side football	16
Home for Good	16
Cap Debt Centre	17
Cap Job Club	18
Foodbank	18
Bible & Science	19

INTRODUCTION & VICAR'S REPORT

I want to begin this short report by saying "thank you" to the very many of you who serve in the life of our church in so many wonderful ways. Without your time, effort, wisdom, energy, faith, vision, grace, tenacity, patience, humour and determination we would not be where we are as a church.

2016 was another year where we saw fruit from God's ministry in and through us, with many notable moments and developments, including (in no particular order):

- Our social action projects have continued to seek to develop and serve those in need; our Foodbank has expanded further, both into new premises and new creative ways to help people; our CAP debt centre served more people than ever before, and we launched the CAP job club initiative.
- We have seen new small groups start, and some finish, with more in small groups than ever before.
- We've seen an explosion in the number of students and 18-30s, who recently enjoyed a weekend away together, which fused that community.
- We have pressed on with the redevelopment of St Helen's, aided by our successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid, which saw Stella Power join the staff team as project manager for this.
- We said goodbye to Jeanette Martin as our Operations Manager who was replaced by Mark Carrington
- Jonny Gordon joined the staff team providing a maternity cover for Philippa Barton.
- I was able to take a three-month sabbatical which Owen Gallacher and the Church Wardens led the church through with ease (thank you again for releasing us for that break!)
- We have developed the hospitality at our Sunday gatherings and developed the gathering formats which have resulted in better gatherings and a greater sense of community when we do gather.

What lies ahead for us as a church is exciting. I will be sharing some important news at the APCM so would encourage you to be there to hear that first and live!

Thank you all for being All Saints - we *are* the church... and what a wonderful church we are!

With my love and prayers as always!

Rich Johnson

PCC

We are served by a highly committed and gifted church council. The PCC has been busy attending to the matters entrusted to it by the congregation and the diocese, including HR matters, finance, governance, mission partner support, fabric repairs and redevelopment challenges and working collaboratively with me to ensure the health and vitality of the church.

It met eight times in the last cycle as well as in “project groups” (committees) which currently are: Finance and Governance, Mission Partner support, Buildings Redevelopment and Foodbank support.

Electoral Roll update

At the APCM in March 2016 there were 181 names on the electoral roll. During the year, one was removed, bringing the total to 180.

Rich Johnson

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is never a subject that sits comfortably in a church. We want to trust and welcome everyone to become involved in our mission. All Saints would not be the vibrant church that it is today without this desire.

However, if we see safeguarding as simply a set of rules then we miss the bigger picture. It is only by setting boundaries to keep everyone safe that we can have the confidence and freedom to be fully inclusive. We safeguard **because** we love.

Activity	Children	Adults
Lower risk	-- No DBS Required --	
↓	Child DBS	Adult DBS
Higher risk	Child DBS + Barred List Check	Adult DBS + Barred List Check

But it's not just children who need our protection. Adults can be permanently or temporarily vulnerable too – perhaps through illness, disability or age. We have a responsibility to support them too.

Safer recruitment is an essential part of the Church of England's approach to safeguarding. The policy and guidance addresses two key areas:

- the recruitment process – ensuring that volunteers are appropriate for the role they wish to do
- criminal record checks (DBS) – determining the right level of check for each role and performing it

The Recruitment Process

We now have high level role descriptions for most church leadership positions. The intention is to publish these on the internet site, but in the meantime, if you are interested in volunteering for a role, speak with the ministry leader for that area, and ask to see the role description. Mark Carrington leads this area with support from Barbara and Jonny.

Criminal Records Checks (DBS)

Each role description includes the level of DBS that applies to that role. Where an activity involves close working with children or adults who could become vulnerable, a DBS check will be required.

One common myth is that having a DBS certificate covers you to do any other role. Another role may require a different 'type' of DBS to the one you already have. Tim and Diane can advise, and can upgrade your DBS if needed.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard the young and the vulnerable. If you have concerns about possible abuse (including allegations):
In an emergency, call emergency services 999
Otherwise, consult your ministry leader
Decide together whether to seek advice or to make an immediate referral to police or care services
Always contact Rich Johnson and Tim & Diane Marlow – we will also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor
Keep a record of what happened, your concerns and your actions
Only tell others who need to know

A second common myth is that one-off events don't require volunteers to be safely recruited or to have DBS clearance. The risk still needs to be assessed – and our normal processes for checking and appointing volunteers applies.

We know that volunteers want to get involved as quickly as possible, and often believe it is OK to start in role as soon as they commence the safer recruitment process. This is another myth – people may only start when they receive an appointment letter from the PCC.

We are very grateful to all the ministry leaders and volunteers who have been so supportive and patient as they have provided role descriptions, completed application forms and in many cases DBS forms with proof of ID!

Tim and Diane Marlow
Parish Safeguarding Representatives

PASTORAL CARE

During the Autumn of 2016 a Steering Group was formed to look at Pastoral Care within All Saints. We asked ourselves why do this and one of the many reasons was that it flows from the commitment to love one another because we ourselves are first loved by God.

The group looked at people's expectations of what 'Pastoral Care' meant to them and then looked at how a structure could be formed to enable All Saints to meet some of those expectations in a growing church without burdening a few people with too much to do. The group considered how someone could easily access pastoral care.

We explored what it could realistically be initially, where it could go in the future and to know more please be at All Saints on Sunday April 23rd when we will be showing you what we are excited about and how you can be part of caring and loving one another.

Heather Christmas

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer ministry is praying with and for another person in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As trained team members we bring people to Jesus, exercising care and safety for the individual.

Highlights from 2016:

- We have recruited and trained 2 new people onto the team
- The weekly gatherings continue to have more people coming forward for prayer
- There is encouraging feedback that God is at work in those who have been prayed for
- A number of healings have been noted this year
- A number of us attended the Well, Leamington Spa healing course

Prayer requests:

- That more people would join the team
- To encourage more people to come forward to receive prayer as a normal part of gatherings
- Team members will want to join with pre-gathering prayers, listening to God.

Barbara & Alan Penney

WORSHIP TEAM

I can't believe I have had the joy of being able to lead the Worship Team at All Saints for well over a year now – how time flies! This year has been really exciting on many levels and I feel like there is so much more to come. I'd like to say a massive thank you to the team (musicians, sound team, projection) who give up so much time in Gatherings and behind the scenes – we are very privileged to have such a team!

Highlights

The main highlight for me this year has been launching into our vision. Personally, I have carried around with me for a while a deep interest in the subject and expression of Christian worship, particularly in our charismatic/evangelical tradition. This has been a bit of a catalyst for us as a team to venture towards establishing a well-informed, thoughtful, and open-minded vision which embraces the subject of worship holistically. So, together we have embarked on a year-long(+) mission of exploring worship through Scripture, Church tradition and culture. At the end of this journey we will be well-placed to critique our current understanding and articulation of 'worship' on multiple levels: *personal expression* – how worship permeates a life of discipleship; and *corporate expression* – the form, language and expectancies we associate with worship in a congregational setting. At present, the Worship Team is primarily responsible for overseeing the musical worship in our Gatherings, and the end goal of this vision journey is that we can become better equipped as a team to serve the church, considering worship as the transcending purpose of human life.

Other highlights of the past twelve months include joining the Cathedral in their Celebration of Wholeness & Healing, where a handful of the All Saints Worship Team led music throughout the service. It was exciting being able to serve and come alongside the wider church family within Worcester. Also, it was incredible performing alongside the Community Choir at our Christmas Carol Service, together injecting some joy and truth into what is such a significant time of year for many people, both inside and outside of our church community.

Summary of Activities as a Ministry Area:

- Our principal role is facilitating the musical worship with our weekly Gatherings and occasional mid-week meetings.
- Through 2016 we have been meeting monthly as a team to touch base and discuss things on a practical level and also to help develop relationships within the team. These meetings have slowly evolved over the last year to pave way for a focus on the vision journey. Hence, in this coming year we have several dates in the diary when we are meeting for a whole day of teaching, thinking and praying. We are also meeting on alternative months to be musical, prayerful, creative and technical.
- I also aim to gather the worship leaders together semi-regularly so we can discuss the ins and outs of worship leadership in theory and practice.
- There are a large group of young people at All Saints with excellent musical ability who would really benefit from having a space where they can come together to play music and learn about worship. We have had one session bringing these young

people together, which I think has so much potential. Prayer around this would be really appreciated, as its lack of progression is primarily down to my busy diary.

Prayer Requests

- That the worship life of the church will thrive in all respects, that as Christ's Church we will be reverent, child-like, fervent in our love, and uncompromising in our mission.
- Prayer will be invaluable as we move forward with our vision – for knowledgeable and balanced teaching, for wisdom in our discussions, and for the Holy Spirit's involvement in any decisions we take.
- That God will continue to speak to us as a team and that our worship will continue to be authentic.
- That as a team we will be able to effectively serve the vision of the leadership and help provide an inclusive, truthful and spiritual culture of worship in the church.
- That as a team we will grow in relationship with each other, united in what we are doing and where we are going.
- That we may be able to accommodate the large selection of young people within our busy schedules, that we can invest in them not only as musicians, but as the young generation of worshippers.

Fraser Oates

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Messy Church

Messy Church is an opportunity for children and their parents or carers to come together to explore the Bible through crafts, story, music and drama. We meet seasonally on a Saturday from 10.30am-1pm in St Helen's.

Christmas was a particular highlight for us, we saw around 120 people attend and hear the story of Jesus's birth. The community were all pleased to meet again and there was a lot of cross over from Mainly music.

Adventurers

"Adventurers", our Children's Church, meets every Sunday morning. We have Scramblers (0-2 year olds) which Joy Pollock heads up. Explorers (3 – 5 year olds), Discoverers (School year 1 – 2) & Trailblazers (School year 3, 4 & 5) all meet together in St Helens for teaching, ministry and fun!

- We recently launched 'Tumblers', which is a dedicated area for babies at the back of the All Saints building. This has been an enormous success and has benefitted the community of All Saints.
- Adventurers has flourished in the last year. We have seen a good number of children promising their lives to Jesus, really understanding what it means to follow him and be in relationship with him.
- The children have really progressed in the area of prayer. They are really starting to be bold in praying for each other and us as leaders. We continue to explore 'listening prayer' in which the children listen for words from God to share with each other and their families.
- I have had many wonderful conversations with parents who have told me stories of their kids talking about what they have learnt in Adventurers, and how they are applying what they have learnt in school and at home.
- Please pray for us to continue to seek God's heart for Adventurers, and to continue to use the children powerfully in the wider life of the church community.

- If you would like to see how you can get involved and serve within children's work at All Saints, please contact Rhi O'Rourke.

Wider children's ministry

We have enjoyed many 'one off' events throughout this year. Some highlights include

- Summer – Our Summer party saw St Helens packed with children all enjoying messy games, good food and lots of fun. It was a great opportunity to share the gospel with many of our fringe families.
- Pancake party – This was a great success, with different ages gathering together for fun and food.
- Christmas activities were also a highlight, with many gathering for our family carol service.
- Something I am keen to explore as we move forward in our children's ministry in intergenerational ministry, how can we bring together all the ages in a successful way? I look forward to seeing what God is going to do in this area.
- Please pray for us as we start to explore how we can support parents within our church community and outside it in their parenting, and in how to best communicate the good news of Jesus with them.

Rhianne O'Rourke

MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly Music (MM) meets weekly during term time in St Helen's and provides a fun and good quality music session for pre-school children to enjoy with their parents, grandparents or care-giver.

The ultimate aim of MM is to provide an open forum for connection – between parents & children, between families at a similar life stage, between children & the music as well as between local families & our church with the hope that they find community, friendship & a sense of belonging.

During the first part of the session, the children are led in a variety of songs that stimulate their imagination, improve coordination and promote musicality using actions and props such as parachutes, scarves and shakers. The remainder of the morning allows the adults to socialize over coffee and homemade cakes whilst the children play together.

Highlights & Developments this year:

We continue to be busy! We remain bursting at the seams each week with families who are committed to the group. We have had four sets of twins join whose mums' have been thrilled to find the team offering them an extra pair of hands, which is not apparently the norm amongst the other groups they attend. We were nothing but surprised at the commitment of all of our families when they requested & attended sessions in St Helen's during the autumn term despite the freezing temperatures when the boiler was broken. Great was the relief all round however when it was fixed! We hosted another successful Macmillan coffee morning in September and last June were able to pull off a Father's Day special on a Saturday morning, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all and something we hope to repeat this year. We have been visited by several church groups who are interested in starting up Mainly Music for themselves and who have been very encouraging in their feedback. Action for Children visited too and are keen to make closer links with us.

A hugely faithful & committed team who remain the bedrock of the success we see at Mainly Music sessions. The team continue to be the underlying reason that MM is such a success. The willingness of those involved to utilize their gifts, serve faithfully, think creatively and commit prayerfully has ensured that sessions run smoothly and with Jesus at the centre. We were very sad to see Jane Wilcox leave us this year, having served on team since the beginning of MM in Worcester six years ago. We remain completely grateful for the huge amount of wisdom, gentleness and time she has given. We have welcomed Sarah Worth, Ruth Nash & Rhi O'Rourke who have all been fantastic additions to our team.

A continued determination to look for ways to make God & his church accessible.

Our prayer teapot, introduced a couple of years ago, continues to be used by MM mums on a regular basis. We have started to collect the requests and place them into a journal as a record of the ways God has shown himself faithful. We pray from the front for all children leaving MM as well as giving them a bible to keep and this year we are also planning to give out the Easter story as part of our Easter celebrations. We do these things in the hope that the seeds sown within the ethos of each MM session might be further grown within each child's home. We have advertised and promoted church services & events and we have been encouraged to see some folk from MM open to aspects of church life. In particular at Christmas it was a joy to see a good number of Mainly mums – past and present - involved in the community choir and to see their respective families joining us at our Christmas services.

Prayer Requests:

- That our MM session for Dads in honour of Father's Day on June 24th would capture the hearts of all the Dads who come as they glimpse an unfamiliar aspect of their child's week & as they experience a taste of the kingdom values we hold dear to.
- With high numbers of folk joining us each week, we are often stretched as a team to get everything achieved as efficiently as we might so it would be amazing if we could find one or two more people to help us perhaps particularly those who no longer have pre-school children at home.
- That we would continue to see an openness to the things of God & his kingdom, particularly as we continue to link in with & invite MM members to events within the life of All Saints in the coming year.

Rachel Cothurst

STUDENTS & 18-30s

The academic year began by welcoming Tasha Walker (3rd year), Rob Armstrong (2nd Year) and Chris and Ivanna Giles onto the Student Team. The student community, lead by the Student Team, meet weekly on Thursdays for small group and have been following the church's YOBL journey. The September launch party saw Freshers and returning students connecting with All Saints and several of these serve in areas of the church's life such as Sunday Host Teams and Adventurers.

Owen was involved in speaking at and helping with The University Carol service this year, which was held in the Student Union Bar. This was a highlight of student witness on campus.

March 10th-12th 2017, the 18-30s group headed to The Poplars, Ledbury for a weekend away. There were 50 of us gathered (including x3 preschoolers!). Highlights were a late night game of Assassin (don't ask!), a wonderful 24/7 prayer room, Jonny Gordon's homemade burgers, and lots of testimonies of God at work. It was such an encouraging weekend. It cemented and re-commissioned the community for kingdom living.

We'd love for continued prayer that this ministry would flourish as people exploring Jesus would commit to Him, and for freedom and fullness for everyone in the 18-30s community.

Laura and Owen Gallacher

MEN'S MINISTRY

2016 saw fewer organised 'events' aimed specifically at men, as the intention was to encourage guys to develop meaningful and accountable relationships with each other including meeting regularly to pray and be accountable to one another. In some ways it's hard to gauge how much this has happened, but I am aware of a number of guys that are meeting up with one or two others to 'do life' together which is great.

There have been several larger events including an evening at the T20 cricket followed by a curry, and a breakfast at Chapel House. Paul Wilcox has also hosted some 'vintage' men's retreats at Chapel House which I gather have been really valued.

My hope and prayer for the coming year is that the community of men at All Saints will grow in their support for each other; enabling each other to be more Jesus-like in their homes, places of work and neighbourhoods. It may be that this means few events so that we all have enough space in our diaries to invest in those areas beyond the church walls, but I hope that there may be several times including a weekend away where men can get together to challenge and inspire each other

Paul Barton

REVIVE (WOMEN'S MINISTRY)

Highlights

New leadership team from January 2017 of Lynn Tresidder, Judith Mason & Barbara Penney.

Clear vision for the group moving forwards:

- To be a growing and dynamic group of women who actively demonstrate living in the power and freedom of God's spirit
- Practical implications of our vision mean that we will:
 - Use this group to care for others and provide support for a range of mission projects within the Church.
 - Actively be involved in evangelism by outreaching to the community through craft sessions and coffee mornings.
 - Develop our spiritual gifts and prayer ministry so that we can equip ourselves and others to enrich the life of the Church and its ministry both here in Worcester and beyond

Summary of activities

- Monthly craft mornings – opportunities have been created for friends and neighbours to connect with the Church.
- Monthly coffee mornings – this will be developed into an outreach activity by extending the coffee mornings into the City and offering women opportunity to meet and chat with friendly faces.
- Guest speakers – to help equip and enthuse the group for ministry within the Church and outreach within the city.
- Worship, prayer and teaching – opportunities for women to listen to God’s word and develop spiritual gifts in order to edify and enrich ourselves and the Church

Prayer Requests

“This is not to be a lady’s group who drink tea and make cakes” (although we will do this!), but a way of equipping the women in this Church to practically advance God’s Kingdom here in Worcester and beyond.

We would like prayer for:

- God through his Spirit to stir an excitement, anticipation and a sense of urgency within the women in our church – we would like Revive to be accessible to women of all ages and backgrounds within the Church
- Opportunities to serve and outreach for the women of this city who need to experience and find God in their lives
- Ways that we can connect with other Churches, New Wine ministries and mission partners in developing and using our spiritual gifts

Lynn Tressider

MISSION PARTNER GIVING

Background

Membership of the group is the following **three PCC members**: Andrew Jackman, Jean George & Paul Wilcox.

During the past year we have been following the Mission Support Strategy which was approved by the PCC in February 2016. Under this funding has been allocated to

- 1) Local
- 2) National and
- 3) International partners.

Local

Support for Good Soil Project, Tolladine Mission Project has been withdrawn as, Good Soil is firmly established and Tolladine has ceased to operate. Funding for Chapel House Project, (Paul and Jane Wilcox) and Consuming Fire Ministries (Geraint and Debra Hill) continues as does support for Worcester Street Pastors.

National

We continue to support CAP local initiatives and also CPAS. Support for Fusion continues to help the work with students.

International

Our CMS partners the Schoonbees have retired so funding is no longer needed. James and Emily Roe (with YWAM) plan to return and James is to work as a Missions Enabler in London with a view to possible ordination.

Jonathan and Carita McCririe continue working with LIV Village in South Africa. We also propose a 'one off' grant to help these two families with their trip to China (Roe) and visit to Soul Survivor UK (McCririe).

Discretionary

The 'Vicar's Discretionary Support Fund' and the 'Visit Support Fund' continue.

Next steps

In nominating possible future partners and projects it is essential that:

1. They should be known and proposed by a member of the All Saints family
2. They should cover a broad spectrum of mission work
3. Opportunity should be given for the All Saints family to meet and get to know them.

In order to facilitate this members are asked to let Mission Group members know of any person or project they would like to nominate to be considered for support from the All Saints Mission Fund.

Andrew Jackman

PHOTOFIT



It seems hard to believe that as you read this report, Photofit has now been running for five years. The aims of the group are essentially very simple...

Photofit is for anyone who enjoys taking photographs combined with walking, rambling or exploring the urban/rural environment in the company of others. Whether you are a novice or

skilled in photography, this activity is open to all-regardless of age, gender or experience. All you need is your own digital camera.

Over the last five years those involved have visited some really interesting venues, taken some great photographs, exhibited and sold work, engaged in workshops and many have made new friends along the way. Building relationships in this way means that those who take part feel relaxed and comfortable with one another...it's an ideal activity to invite friends and neighbours to. It's true to say that in almost every case, participants would acknowledge several ways in which their photographic skill base has improved too.

If you click on / enter the following link into your browser, you will find the Photofit 'discussions page'...click on any 'discussion' and you will see a range of work from those who were present on the day and have uploaded sample photographs. This is a great way to share selected images with others from our days out together...

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/1906849@N24/discuss/>

Over the last twelve months we have done several circular walks including Dowles Brook, Abberley and Hanbury. As well as some very picturesque countryside, we have enjoyed some great conversations in addition to the odd pub lunch together. Over the summer, some of us went along to the Medieval Festival in Tewkesbury. It was great to return to Westonbirt in the autumn and once again to appreciate the wonderful colours evident in the National Japanese Acer Collection.

By the time you read this report we will have visited the Magnum Photographers' Exhibition in Shrewsbury...this is an international exhibition on the theme of evolution celebrating the work of some of the world's greatest photographers. This exhibition is open until 23rd April, 2017 (click on / enter this link into your browser...<http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=ee8f8838db92c3fd04b7a18a8&id=4a7699912a&e=f0dde9da8f> for further information). We will also have visited NT Attingham Park which is nearby.

Our next day out is planned for **Saturday 8th April, 2017** when we will be enjoying a *circular walk from Guiting Power to Naunton in the Cotswolds*.

If you would like more information on this event or any other part of our programme for this year, please contact photofit@allsaintsworcester.org.uk.

Paul Long

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

All Saints 5-a-side has now been running (literally - at least, for most of each game, for most of us) for 11.5 years! That's 11.5 years of goals, groans and glory, and men feeling connected to one another and to the wider All Saints network. Please join us whenever you can on a Tuesday evening from 8-9pm at St Johns YMCA.

Everyone is welcome, including friends, neighbours and long-anticipated comebacks. Please have a think of who can you invite along who might appreciate a good game and warm welcome - even if you'd rather not show us up with your own skills just yet.

For more information, or if you'd like to be added to our distribution list (for notice of the exceptional weeks we don't play), please email football@allsaintsworcester.org.uk, or have a chat with any of our current players, including John Bardell, Tim Clarke, Owen Gallacher, Nat Garfield, Chris Giles, Mike Harper, Mark Pirrie, Andy Sheppard, Joe Sherwin, Si Shirley, Ovidiu Vaipan, Russell West or Charlie Wort.

Please also get in touch if you're not able to play on Tuesdays but would like to offer your services for one of our occasional 11-a-side fixtures. Thank you!

Andy Sheppard

HOME FOR GOOD

Home for Good nationally is a charity with a vision to find a home for every child who needs one. In the UK, 4,000 children are waiting for adoption and 9,000 foster families are desperately needed. We believe that the Church can make a difference.

Home for Good raises awareness of the need for foster and adoptive parents, encourages families to provide loving homes for the children in care, and equips the Church to offer welcoming communities for them. We are dedicated to inspiring, equipping and coordinating the network of local movements, churches and individuals who are making our vision a reality.

Locally, back in October 2016 Home for Good:Worcester was launched with a wonderful service of celebration in Worcester Cathedral supported by over 250 people. We sought to raise an awareness of the needs of vulnerable children across our county. So far, we are a group of 8 churches working together in Worcester, of which All Saints is one. We are looking to increase our reach by engaging more churches so that we can become county wide.

The launch was supported by +John, MP Robin Walker, senior managers from Children's Services, more than 8 churches were represented and many of the staff team from Home for Good.

Since the launch we have provided:

- a 'Sons and Daughters' event celebrating the positive influence of birth children of foster carers. Held in St Helen's in partnership with the LA
- an information evening at Lifehouse in order to respond to the launch
- a Christmas party for families involved in fostering & adoption at City Church
- 'Table Time' Lunch in February at City Church to deepen relationships amongst families we are supporting
- a pilot 'Children and Youth workers' training course at Freedom Church

- Information via the launch of our Home for Good: Worcester facebook page.

Specifically, we have been struck by God's favour in terms of relationships with:

- Diocese of Worcester – Hilary Higton Safeguarding Advisor et al
- Local Authority – John Arnold, Barbara Carter, Stuart Watkins. I write a monthly blog for the LA
- HfG Nationally – I've written a blog for them
- BBC H&W – another radio interview on fostering 20/2 and 26/3

Working closely with the LA, their current need is for:

- Households with 2 + bedrooms,
- F/C's able to consider sibling groups
- Unaccompanied asylum seeking children and YP
- 10+ age group

In terms of opportunity...two aims for 2017:

- Recruiting more churches from across the county to catch the vision of Home for Good
- Provide Support for F/C's that is separate from the LA. The LA have confidence in us to offer sound support which would alleviate pressure from Social workers and protect recruitment and retention.

Joy Pollock

CAP DEBT CENTRE

It has been a great privilege this year to continue to meet with those who are struggling with debt, to walk with them on their on their journey and to see them grow in hope with the realisation that there is help to deal with their debt. By journeying with CAP this then enables them to be able to once again be able open their post without fear, a lifting of depression and learning to live to a budget. There has been 20 new clients this year, 3 of which are now debt free and others well into their journey to becoming debt free.

There are now more agencies supporting us and signposting clients to the centre. We are also seeing clients coming to church events such as the bonfire, carol services and Alpha, where they have felt so welcome by this fellowship! More people have joined in with this ministry by supporting the clients, delivering Christmas hampers or sending birthday cards. Thank you.

There is now a CAP job club run by Neil Silverthorne now running its second course, with more clients and some finding jobs.

The monthly coffee morning continues to grow and develop, where we now see church people, those connected to the church and people from the street sharing a cuppa together!!

So it has been a positive year, one of continuing growth and recognition by the agencies and people of Worcester that CAP can meet the demands of those in need. In October of last year I believed the Lord led me to stand down from being the centre manger but remaining as a debt coach. This then caused a problem that we were not able to function for long without one. At present we have a person who has shown an interest in this role. Please pray for this, I have been encouraged by Jairus that there was a delay but also a rising, I look forward to that for the debt centre.

Pray for those clients that on the journey to become debt free as it can be very hard at times , pray for me as in this time of delay as I spend time sharing CAP with other churches and for the growth of the other CAP ministries as mentioned above.

Dave Christmas

CAP JOB CLUB

The team at Job Club are pleased to report that we have run one course towards the end of 2016 when we had two candidates. One has found a job and the other is working part time and still receiving support form the club. We also started a second course in March and are currently in week 5 out of 8. We started with a total of 10 candidates at week 1. We are currently down to 5 candidates with 2 dropping out and the remainder having found jobs.our aim is to finish the course with no candidates out of work!!

For the future, we are planning to review our recruitment strategy, train up al least 1 other coach and see where the between courses follow up takes us."

Neil Silverthorne

FOODBANK

Worcester Foodbank, under the guidance of Grahame Lucas and with a team of over 100 volunteers, has had a busy year, seeing a 35% increase in usage during the last 12 months. During 2016 we gave out **5,308** 3 day food parcels to people who would otherwise have gone hungry, which equates to over **51 tonnes** of food.

The rise in usage has necessitated a move in premises, and in July 2016 we moved into a new unit at **7 Lowesmoor Wharf**. The new centre gives us space to deal with health and safety issues, and give clients more space and privacy. We are in the process of re-ordering the space, and have plans to add in a disabled toilet, shower and a simple kitchen. We realise the need to have a holistic approach to the needs of our clients, and to that end we plan to have CAP Debt Centre and Job Club operating from the same site, helping clients out of debt and into employment. We also have an excellent relationship with The Good Soil Project, and they now use some of our warehouse space.

At Foodbank, we are in the business of **restoring lives** and **renewing hope**. We feed the hungry, the lowly and the downtrodden, and through doing so we try and give people a glimpse of Jesus, the real Bread of Life. Most volunteers have a Christian background and are active in their local church, while other volunteers share the heart for serving in our community and overtly show God's love in all that they do within Foodbank. We offer prayer to any client who would like it.

Here are just a few examples of the human stories we have encountered at Foodbank in the last year:

- A Young mum moved to this area to make a new start after marriage break up. She had gained a job as a carer but can't start until her DBS clearance comes through. In the mean time she had very little income and a young daughter to care for. **Foodbank fed her and her family, and gave them hope.**
- An ex-soldier had made many job applications over 6 month period with not one offer of interview. He was making the required number of applications each week, but when his wife became ill and the school holidays loomed, his priority was to keep the family safe, and he fell behind with applications. His benefits were

sanctioned for 6 weeks. **Foodbank fed him and his family, and restored their dignity.**

- On our ASDA food collection day a man whom our volunteers thought was an unlikely donor (wearing a Manchester United top!) came out of the shop carrying one tin and a carrier bag. He kept the tin and donated the bag saying thank you for helping his son last year. **There are countless stories like this from former Foodbank clients.**

We have helped run some other projects in the past year. The **Christmas Toy Project**, run by a volunteer who wanted to make sure that no child in Worcester went without a present on Christmas day, saw us give away **176 new, gift-wrapped, personally labelled toys**. Another volunteer piloted a scheme with Stanley Road School which saw us supply **School Holiday Food Parcels** to families who rely on free school meals during term time. We have also developed an excellent PR team, headed up by Tim Joesbury-Clarke, who have been behind our successful **Reverse Advent Calendar** and **In Their Shoes** campaigns.

We have recently appointed **Giles Joiner** as our All Saints Foodbank Champion. If you want to know more about what we do and how you can get involved, speak to him, Grahame or I and we will be happy to tell you more.

Tim Clack
Chair of Foodbank Trustee Group

BIBLE & SCIENCE

Our numbers attending B&S fell off four or five years ago, when the large fundamentalist part of our audience found that we accepted science, and didn't want to deny it. This year, though, while not getting back up to the good old days with 60 + (or, for one meeting. 107) people, this year has seen a recovery.

We had 40 last night including the retired bishop (who has been to all six meetings this winter) also the new minister at St Peters Baptist, one or two Catholic leaders and several people from All Saints. This concludes our 9th session, and we are now running a small programme for sixth formers etc. as well. We desperately need help with organisation.

You may be interested to know that last night's speaker, who helps train Anglican priests, said he hardly ever observes churchgoers who sufficiently relate the teaching they get in church to day-to-day experience. This was in the context of discussing "nature red in tooth and claw" which he contrasted with the sanitized version of God's creation we prefer to keep in mind. Finally, we want a new name and any ideas would be welcome. We are part of Christians in Science but we don't emphasise it!

Geoff Pritchard

Vicar: Rev Dr Rich Johnson
Registered Charity No. 1128121

All Saints Church Centre
Unicorn Chambers,
Chapel Walk
Worcester
WR1 3LD
01905 734625

27th March 2017