

2016 was, on a personal level, a good year. I was much refreshed by my sabbatical, more of that later. I want to begin my report by expressing my deep thanks to Claire and the boys for their love, support and understanding. They are my earthly foundation for so much of my ministry.

The Holy Trinity Leadership Team has continued to meet regularly. This group consists of myself, the churchwardens, the lay readers and the curate – and I am hoping that this AGM will provide another churchwarden to work alongside Irene to compliment all the excellent work she has undertaken this past year. The Leadership Team has been a great support to me and enabled things to move forward and stay on track within our church life together.

I continued in my role as a Local Authority Governor for Trafalgar Community Infant School – this means I was able to continue the work of strengthening the connection between Trafalgar Infant's and our church. The school made their normal Christmas services (overseen by me for the ninth time in 2016) and regular visits, both of classes to the church, and me to the school for classroom time or assemblies.

We had the usual group of school, playgroups and organisations that held their Christmas celebrations here with us and I thank all those who worked so hard during the Christmas season. I know that it is a busy time for us all and I really do appreciate the amount of work that many people put in to make sure that each Christmas we have a wonderful celebration and welcome as many people as possible to join us. This was especially true last year as my sabbatical took me out of parish life from September until mid-November.

My time away allowed me to pause and reflect. To study at a depth I haven't been able to within the normal hustle and bustle of parish life. I was able to write a seminar about Mental Health and Ministry. Looking at the alarming incidents of depression, anxiety and stress among clergy, reflecting on my personal journey and struggles and suggesting various ways in which we might help ourselves and the church structures might be encouraged to help those who struggle in this area of life.

I also wrote over 10,000 words of a novel – the other 70,000 words are still struggling to get out but within the next decade or so look out for the new best-seller "Ashes to Ashes" on shelves of your local bookshop. On a serious note, I am endeavouring to continue this exercise in creative writing to help me relax and undertake a worthwhile pastime.

In 2016 I was privileged to accept the offer of Guy to lead the Town's Civic Service and I continue to deputise for him at monthly District Council Meetings in leading the opening prayers there when his diary won't allow him to.

It was also in 2016 that a dedicated and prayerful group of people heard God calling and started to look into organising Messy Church for Holy Trinity. This is a ministry that I have supported, but not been involved in leading, and it has been a blessing to me to see that group undertake Messy Church events – to watch God bless them with numbers of people that have been astonishing and to pray for them in the work God has called them to do in the name of His church. I thank God for that small group and encourage you all to continue supporting this aspect of our church life as we continue it and it grows. May it produce a bountiful harvest of New Life in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to end my report with sincere thanks to all those who work for the glory of God in many differing ministries here within Holy Trinity. To Fr. Bernard for his support and friendship, thanks too to Peter as our lay reader here and the work he undertakes in that role. Thank you to Irene our churchwarden and church council for all their hard work. To the members of the sub groups; thank you for the practical work they do in all areas of church life. Thanks too to Colin, Anne, Michael, Peter and the members of both the choir and the music band for the work they do in the musical life of Holy Trinity.

Thank you to all those who lead home groups, clean the church, to the sacristans for preparing the church for services and making sure that I'm always correctly attired and prepared for worship.

Continuing in thanks to Margaret and her flower arrangers who do such a magnificent job; To Roger in the office, and Alex for managing the Church Hall. Thanks to those who undertake the organisation of our fellowship lunches, the fair trade stall, the lawn mowing rota, and a myriad of other roles, tasks and jobs, both small and large, that you do as part of your offering to God and this church. Thank you all for all that you do.

But, there is a special thanks this year. A job that is difficult, often thankless yet always vital. Di Whittaker has been the church treasurer for a good many years and has undertaken the role with extreme diligence and competence. I thank her for all the hours she has worked to understand the peculiar setup of our parish finances and to keep us informed of our financial standing. Not only has she done that but in preparing to step down from this role she has achieved the almost impossible job of recruiting her successor. Di, I sincerely thank you for the work you have done as our treasurer. I know you will help settle Hazel into her new role. Please be assured of our genuine appreciation of your tenure as treasurer.

Looking forward there are two major items this year for us.

The first is the practical consideration of maintenance on the church hall and church buildings. The decoration and repair of the upper window frames, along with the urgent need to find a replacement floor for the church hall is something that we will be sorting out before the end of the summer. There is also works that need undertaking in the church to maintain it as sound and secure.

And in September we will be going away as a church, to look at God's vision for the future; to pray and worship together, to seek His guidance on the next steps of the life of Holy Trinity and to look at the overall direction of our mission. Details of this day will be given to us in a couple of months.

And so, thanking God for the blessings we received in 2016 let us offer him the work we are undertaking, praying that God's Holy Spirit would guide and direct us and that we would work to his praise and glory in all things.

Amen. David Bouskill