

Holy Trinity Team Vicar's Report

2017 started with a wonderful joint parish service, held here in Holy Trinity. An event that was so welcomed that we finished the year with a parish service at St. John's on 31st December as well. There will be another parish service on the Sunday after Christmas this year too. Details haven't been decided yet.

In 2017 we had 154 communicants over the Easter celebration – an increase over past years and one that I hope we will continue to work at as we ever try to spread the news of God's love for all.

We also hosted a deanery confirmation service in September and a good number of our young people stood up and confirmed their allegiance to Christ and their desire to live as his followers. It was wonderful to see so many of our young people take this important step in their journey of faith and a personally proud moment for me as Ben and Jacob were among that number.

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 tenth time in 2017) 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. In all of our Christmas services in 2017 we hosted over 500 people. A huge thank you to everyone that made that possible and was part of the warm welcome they all received.

2017 was also the year that, after prayerful preparation, Messy Church was launched here at Holy Trinity. It is wonderful to see the people that God brings to us on these occasions and a special thanks needs to be shown to the group who tirelessly organise these events. With the next one already in planning stages for May 29th I believe.

You will all know that towards the end of 2017 my mental health deteriorated and life and ministry was a real struggle for a good while. I was referred to a psychiatrist and, with new medication and the support of a mental health nurse, recovery has been steady – if slower than I would like. I want to thank you all for your prayers and your loving support during this time. It is immensely humbling for me to receive pastoral care as well as to give it and, I believe, a very healthy priest / congregation relationship to care for one another as you have cared for me.

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 and Reg our churchwardens, the church council for all their hard work, especially to Angela who stepped up this time last year when no-one else wanted the role of DCC secretary. To Hazel who undertook the role of treasurer and has completed a wonderful first year. 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.

This year I want to say a special thank you to Emma Williams who has been our Safeguarding Officer for many years. This is an important and often unseen role and one that Emma has undertaken with efficiency and common sense. We aren't able to formally confirm our new safeguarding officer but Suzie Street has provisionally agreed to the role pending a conversation with Emma to make sure I've not falsely sold her the job. They will be meeting this coming Tuesday.

And so, thanking God for the blessings we received in 2017 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