

Other reports

Caversham Consolidated Charities - Mike Eggleton, Clerk to the trustees

This ancient Charity continues to help distressed people, three in 2014, by circumstances of the recession. We granted £680 and this exceeded income from Bequests by £78. The trustees felt this was justified and concerned single parent situations in Lower Caversham. At 31 December 2014 the funds were £4595 against 4673 last year. The Charity Commission investment bank has the charity's assets of 1274 units valued at £14490.

Church House – Nigel Smith, Church House Leadership Team Chair

In the past year we achieved something that has long been a dream of the entire committee: we finally installed a lift, meaning full accessibility to the entire building, most notably the first floor hall. The photo shows Mary and Bill Vincent using our latest amenity.

With a full complement of tenants, Church House remains in a very sound position financially. Hall bookings also remain healthy.

This year we have continued to make available Church House funds to be awarded as grants to Parish projects. Such projects as REInspired, Fresh Expressions and the St Peter's choir have all benefited from this funding. We are proud to support these valuable parish initiatives.



I am grateful to the Committee – Matthew Coome, Michael Crosbie, Sylvia Harris, Mary Tucker – and to Alex and Caroline in the parish office, all of whom contribute to ensure the smooth operation of Church House.

Church House Grants Team – Richard Purkis, Chair

In 2014 the Team made grants to REInspired (to deliver high quality RE lessons in our schools, £5,000); Fresh Expressions (towards the Amersham Road Cooking Club, £2,500); Clergy retreats (£1,500); Training for clergy and lay people (£2,500); St Peter's Junior Choir (to develop the choral tradition, £1,200); St John's Church (for electrical work concerning the Café, £475); St John's Sunday Club (to improve the safety and facilities for the members, £1,320). All unspent grant money was returned to the Church House Trust.

The PCC have agreed to develop priorities, according to which Church House Grants will be allocated, during 2015. A minimum of 50% of the available money will be devoted to the priorities and grants paid for up to 3 years. REInspired has already been made a priority and the funding period has been extended to 3 years on a level basis. The Grants Team will modify the application process in the light of the priorities.

Church House was given to the PCC, who are the trustees. Each year the Church House Trust determines the maximum amount available for grants. It is responsible for the upkeep of the property and has first call on all of the income. The Grants Team allocates these funds in accordance with the terms of the bequest and under the guidance of the PCC. Applications must be made on the application form downloadable from the parish website.

The Grants Team members are: Richard Purkis, Heather Gale, Ian Lowry, Nigel Smith and Matthew Coome

Fresh Expressions – Sue Jenkins

The Fresh Expressions team led by Rev Jeremy Tear works closely with Caversham Methodists. The team would like to record their gratitude for Becky Lovatt's considerable contribution to Fresh Expressions and the Amersham Road Cooking Club. The core team meets monthly to pray and plan and other volunteers help run the monthly Cooking Club sessions. Funding was awarded by Earley Charity for a part-time community development worker who has contributed to increasing the number of children attending ARCC, enabling a wider group of families on Amersham Road to be reached. The format is themed cooking and craft activities, followed by sharing food together and a "God slot" sharing aspects of the Christian faith including the feeding of the 5,000, Christingle-making at Christmas and a family BBQ in the summer. The ARCC team ran a BBQ and prayer tent at Amersham Road Fun Day on August bank holiday weekend.

Health & Safety - Richard Havelock, Health & Safety Coordinator

The current parish Health & Safety policy was approved by the PCC in December, 2014. A single document now covers all three churches, where it is now on display with posters about (a) first aid and (b) working at height.

There has been no reported accidents.

Risk assessments have been undertaken with regard to (a) the steep ground and gully on the north side of the church, and (b) the escarpment at the top of the churchyard alongside St Peter's Hill. Reading Borough Council, which is responsible for the churchyard, will consider further action in consultation with the parish and diocese.

A fire risk assessment has been completed for each church.

Action recommended:

- everyone to be familiar with H&S policy
- any accident to be reported using prescribed procedure
- training for church stewards in evacuation and fire extinguisher use

Kidmore End School - Joanna Moriarty, chair of Governors

Kidmore End continues to thrive and the school is well subscribed. Our ethos and values are deeply embedded within the school – 'Kidmore End School is an inclusive learning community where everyone can realise their unique potential as an independent learner.'

Each term in our collective worship we think about a different value and how we might demonstrate that value in our behaviour around school. Last year we explore the values of Thankfulness, Hope, Creativity, Justice, Perseverance and Friendship.

Over the past year we have worked hard to improve play and outdoor learning opportunities for the children. The Foundation Stage outdoor area has a new canopy, so children can work and play outdoors whatever the weather, and there's now a boat in the playground to spark fun and creative ideas. We are still hoping for funding to replace our temporary classroom.

Properties - Tony Walker, Properties Manager

Gosbrook Road: After a year's vacancy, a new lease was signed on 9 May 2014. The tenancy has since progressed in a satisfactory manner without unresolved problems.

Ilkley Road: There have been a number of small repairs and more seriously the partial collapse of a ceiling. Garden fences suffered damage due to high winds. A tenancy came to an end on 5 September and new tenants took possession on 1 October 2015. During the void period £6,700 was spent on refurbishment of the house and extensive clearance of the garden. Unfortunately the tenants, in breach of contract, disappeared without notice on or about 5 December. Rent had been paid for December and a deposit held by Walmsley Letting Agents. Walmsley have been instructed to secure another tenant.

Galsworthy Drive: The tenancy which commenced in 2013 continued all year in a satisfactory manner. Tony Walker visited at various times to deal with problems, the most serious being a roof leak. The valley gutters were relined at a cost of £1,600 and further roof work was also found to be necessary at a cost of £630.

Safeguarding - Peter Stratton, Safeguarding Officer (safeguarding@ctmparish.org.uk)

The safeguarding policy was reviewed by the PCC in 2014 and a copy of the policy is on the CTM parish website. A monitoring return on compliance with Diocesan safeguarding policy 2014 has been submitted.

Each church has a Children's Advocate whose names and photographs are displayed on the notice boards in each church. Children's Advocates:

St Peter - Jane Havelock

St John - Sonia Higgs

St Margaret - Peter Stratton

Caroline Smith is the recruiter and verifier in dealing with Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The parish practises safer recruitment, including but not confined to, DBS checks for workers (paid and volunteer) with children and vulnerable adults.

Safeguarding is included as an item at each PCC meeting for an update report to be given.

Parish website – Steve Jenkins

Thanks are due to John Cooke for maintaining the parish website and to Chris Fitzsimmons and Graham Aisbitt for keeping the web streaming of services at St Peter's going. The website gets about 570 visits a day, up from 500 last year. Most of those are search engines checking for new content and hackers but more than 300 a month are real people actually using the site.

Web streaming of St Peter's services continues to draw a small audience. Work is in hand to make the service more reliable.

The more we visit our website, the more it will be seen by others. Setting www.ctmparish.org.uk as the home page for your internet browser will register a visit every time you go on the internet and keep you up to date with parish news and future changes to the site. As they say, watch this space.