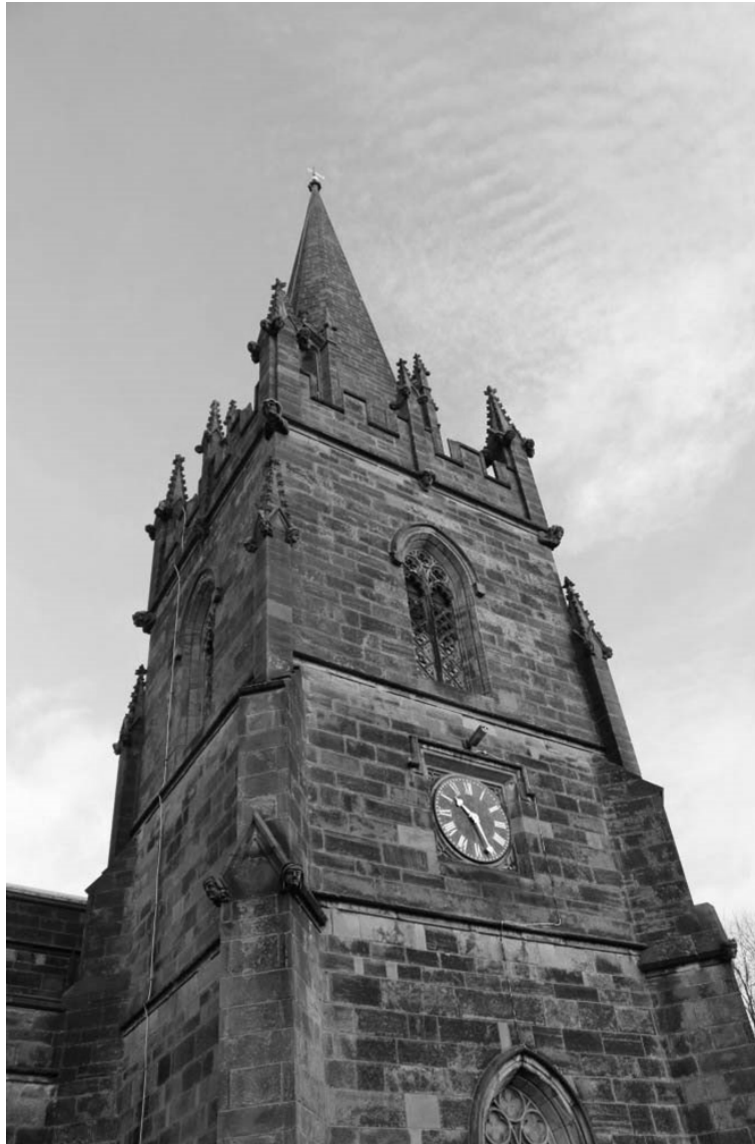


ALL SAINTS', CHURCH SEDGLEY



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 3rd March**

11:20 In Church

ALL SAINTS SEDGLEY
ANNUAL DISTRICT CHURCH MEETING
3rd March 2018
11:20 in Church

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of All Saints ADCM 18th March 2018
3. Matters arising
4. Recommendations to APCM for
 - All Saints Church Wardens
5. Elections of District Church Representatives to;
 - All Saints DCC – 3years
 - PCC – 3, 2, 1 years
6. Appointment of;
 - Assistant Wardens
 - Sidesmen
 - Independent Financial Examiner
7. Electoral Roll Report
- 8 Rectors Report
9. Wardens Report
10. Report on the proceedings of DCC
11. Report of the Treasurer
12. Reports from Church Organisations
14. Any Other Business
- 15 Closing Remarks

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th March 2018

Agenda	Item	Action
1.	Opening Prayers	
2.	Apologies – Geraldine Baker, Maureen and David Matthews, Maureen Iddles, David and Elaine Melhuish.	
3.	Minutes of ADCM 13th March – Agreed	
4.	Matters Arising – None	
5.	Recommendations to APCM for All Saints Church Wardens Agreed John Anderson and Keith Tomlinson GH thanked KT and JA for all their hard work.	PCC
6.	Elections of District Church Representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Saints DCC 3 years – Maureen Matthews, Anne Hart, Bob Aston. • PCC – 3yrs Pauline Turner GH thanked PCC and DCC for their support. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guy and Co approved as independent Financial Examiner. 	PCC
7.	Appointment of Assistant Wardens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed - Brain Chappell, Roger Berry, Jane Hartshorne, Linda Watkins Sidesmen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed - The list of sidesmen submitted to the meeting. Noted Roger Taft has retired thanks in recognition of his service of over 40 years Maureen Matthews omitted. 	LW
8.	Electoral Roll Report – Increase of 2 to 148 – Agreed Noted complete revision next year.	EW
9.	Rectors Report – Guy set out the principals of Kingdom People that DCC were now adopting as the basis for moving the parish forward. Big thank you from Guy and Catherine appreciate so much love and efficiency from church – so many positive things happening. Also from Jackie for prayers, welcome and support she has received	
10.	Wardens Report – An exciting year as we welcomed both Catherine and Guy to the benefice. Gail in the Parish Office has done an excellent job in supporting the parish. GH thanked Assistant Wardens and Sidesmen for all their help throughout the year. The building fabric is in good order; the repointing of the west wall has been completed. Quinquennial inspection due this year The hall is in good order and maintenance will continue in the forthcoming year work on the porch was funded by Noah’s Ark and the 200 Club. All routine inspections and servicing have been completed. The goods and ornaments are all in good order and digital records have been completed and referenced.	JA

	Finally, a big thank you went to all those who help keep the church maintained in such a splendid condition. Report agreed.	
11.	<p>Report on the proceedings of DCC –</p> <p>The period of Vacancy was used as a time of consolidation of parish administration as set out in the report.</p> <p>A number of matters attended to included the vault lights and the wall by the West Door.</p> <p>JA noted that although the DCC has dealt with many operational matters it now needs to move forward using Kingdom People as a template. Report Agreed</p> <p>WW1 Archive - it was reported that Sam Setchel had arranged for the Express and Star to meet with Barbara for an article on the WW1 Archive, an exhibition is to be held in the Church Hall 4-6th May, all intended to locate further information about the soldiers who had died. This will close around June when the Archive will be leather Bound for placing in Church – to be dedicated at the Remembrance Day Service. A “Tommy” has been purchased being a Perspex model of a soldier. We have registered with the “therebutnotthere” website and intend to apply for a grant to purchase 20 silhouettes – being life-size Perspex models representing the missing soldiers.</p> <p>There was discussion on a service to commemorate the end of hostilities.</p>	DCC
12.	<p>Report of the Treasurer –</p> <p>Noted a surplus of £129.</p> <p>The mystery giver bowed out with a final donation of £1,385 queried with banks but unable to trace. Legacy policy to be taken forward. Report Agreed and unanimous thanks to JA for his hard work.</p> <p>AT raised a question regarding the statement of Guy’s in respect of the accounts considering it inadequate, also the disparity between the figure recorded for the Barclays balance on the balance sheet and the investment account. The former is the current account balance the latter the Savings Account.</p> <p><i>Post meeting: E-mailed Guy & Co – reply; The accountants report and signature information is automatically generated by our accountancy software however we can look at changing this for next year. With regards to the cash sheets, invoices etc I can confirm we vouch these against the cashbook provided and bank statements to ensure income and expenditure are correctly classified.</i></p>	DCC
13.	<p>Reports from Church Organisations – received. Guy thanked all the leaders for the work associated with the organisation reports that reflect the level of activity in the parish. In particular Open the Book and the Food Bank that demonstrates our engagement with the community.</p>	
14.	<p>Any other Business – None Meeting closed at 11:55 with the Grace,</p>	

Meeting approved as a true record..... Revd Guy Hewlett

Appointment of Assistant wardens and Sidesmen 2019 – 20

Assistant Wardens

Roger Berry
Brian Chappell
Jane Hartshorne

Sidesmen

Linda Watkins

08:00

Bill & Barbara Baker
Lis Little
Ray & Denise Whittingham
John Willis
Tony Wright
Alan Turner

10:30

Pat Price
Sheila Burke
Mary Davenport
Joyce Withers
Bob Aston
Mel Bates
Maureen Matthews
Anne Hart
Sandra Hill
Linda Edwards

6:30

Laurel Powell
Ivy Slater
Martin Moseley

Clergy report All Saints DCC 14th February 2019 and ADCM 2019

Parish priorities

Prayer and Children and Young People.

Ole Hallesby (Norwegian Lutheran Theologian) wrote that *'If the labour of prayer does not precede as well as accompany all of your work in the Kingdom, it will become nothing but the work of a human, more or less capably done and with more or less effort and agitation as the case may be, but resulting in nothing but weariness both to ourselves and to others.'*

1. Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures:

Prayer is THE most important activity we do as Christians, and having this as a priority is paramount to everything we do as a church. There are several opportunities for prayer across the parish. Parish Prayers happen three mornings each week; all at 9:15am, Tuesdays at St Andrews, Wednesdays at St Peters and Thursdays at All Saints. Additional prayer meetings are also available during the Month of February; 12th February (Tues) at 7.30 pm and 26th February (Tues) at 2.30pm both meetings are to be held at All Saints Vicarage. We encourage as many people to come as are able. The plan is for these prayer times to happen each month.

As we journey towards Easter to celebrate Jesus' glorious resurrection we must first travel through Lent towards Good Friday. As part of that journey this year we will again have our Lent course at three venues. Mondays, 3:00pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Thursdays, one at the vicarage in Sedgley at 7:30 and one at Claire Cox's house on the Straits, again at 7:30. The course material we are planning to use is the Prayer Course based on the Lord's prayer. There will be sign up sheets available in each of the churches from Sunday the 17th February.

Many churches grow when church members meet to pray and study the scriptures outside of Sunday mornings. As a follow on from one of last year's Lent groups a home group was formed which continued to meet and completed the Alpha course together. Those who attend the group have found this of great benefit, and our aspiration and our prayer, is for more home groups to form. In the parish magazines for February you can read testimonies from many of those who attended the home group and the Alpha course and how people have grown in their understanding, and confidence.

2. Renewed and transformed by regular worship:

Worship at All Saints has been supplemented at the 10:30 service with the introduction of new Mission Praise hymn books; giving an opportunity service leader, and congregation to broaden our experience of worship. The introduction of the new hymn books seems to have had a mixed response; with some people feeling that we need to broaden what hymns and songs we have, to those who are struggling with not using Common Praise. Whatever hymn book we use, are we, as a church congregation, being renewed and transformed? Is our worship attractive to those who are not yet members of the church?

What would might a new Worship for All service look like?

It is hoped that we will be able to be creative in our worship services in the future, to enable us to engage with those who are not yet members. We recognize the importance of ensuring that we do this together in a way which supports our current members as much as possible.

3. Equipped to witness to the Gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom:

We are conscious that many people in our churches are reluctant to share their faith with families, friends and neighbours. A good way of becoming more confident is to

meet to pray and learn together. It is hoped that St Peter's would be able to host on behalf of the parish an Alpha course in the near future to which we hope as many of our congregation as possible will come.

Our weekly Coffee morning is a great way of engaging with our community; are we being intentional in this engagement? Do we need to review how we attract people, who are not church members? New banners, and perhaps using other means to promote the morning – the Ridgeway Surgery is working hard to counter isolation and loneliness and perhaps we can work with them; we have started the conversation.

What would connecting with the community look like for All Saints? The Foodbank is a very important contribution, and our concerts and social events not only raise funds but create positive relationships.

4. Dedicated to helping children and young people to belong and be nurtured in faith:

The Calling Young Disciples (CYD) hub team (Guy, Catherine, Helen Laird (Mission Enabler), Suzanne Bradley, Liz Williams, Jan Humphries, Barbara Price, Laura Robinson, Claire Cox and Jackie Hewlett, have had several meetings to discuss our current and future engagement with young people and families. Earlier in the year we met, along with Chris Williams, to discuss how we better engage with Baptism families, and are looking to invite those that have been baptised in recent years to a Teddy Bears picnic. We are also planning:

- a half term holiday event at All Saints Hall on the 19th February
- a pancake party at St Andrew's Hall on Shrove Tuesday
- the Good Friday Workshop at All Saints Hall,
- and we are looking to put on a Light Party on 31st Oct, as an alternative to Halloween, we hope that this will be at St Peter's hall and we'll include invitations to the unformed groups.

As part of engaging with young people in the parish, particularly the uniformed groups at St Peter's, we put in the Pet Service on 10th February, which was very well received by those who I chatted to; we had 54 people attend including 10 children. Its estimated that there were around 10 dogs and two hamsters!

The Sedgley Scout Group are coming to a service to mark St Georges day and we had a very positive Scout Christmas Carol service.

In preparation for the Christmas services in 2018 a new leaflet was designed and produced to outline the children and young people's activities in the parish. Many leaflets were handed out over Christmas, and at baptisms in the parish.

Another parish activity is the development of a youth group, based mainly between St Andrews and All Saints. It is planned that the group will meet again in in March.

Noah's Ark has continued to be a blessing to the local community with an extremely dedicated and committed team. We are planning a new monthly story with a Christian message to be shared with the children and their carers.

Our Open the Book Team are very active in 2 of our local schools. Paul Wilmott represents us taking assemblies in 3 schools and Guy takes assemblies in the Straits School.

5. Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God:

We have many committed and hardworking people in our congregation giving of their time and talents in many different ways. A huge thank goes to all who give so much.

We have struggled to pay our parish share for the ministry of the church. This year we are planning a stewardship campaign, to enable us as a church community to reflect on our understanding of giving.

A number of people are undertaken training to develop skills and talents for our ministry.

6. Resourced and released to minister to others:

What would being better resourced and released to minister to others look like at All Saints?

A number of people have undertaken training such as 'Diddy Disciples' and we have 3 people from All Saints on the Bishops Certificate Course and 1 on the Authorised Lay Ministers course.

At St Peter's we have several people who make home visits and a number willing to take communion to the housebound. How can we build on this at All Saints?

7. Ready to engage with and serve our community:

All our churches work hard at putting on social events to engage with the local community. As already mentioned, we engage with the community through the Foodbank, the Coffee Morning, Noah's Ark and the activities for Children and Young People. We have a number of people who give time working with the homeless, volunteer with GP surgeries in various roles and volunteer with a number of local charities. We support CHADD and young mums through the work of the Mothers Union which is an active and strong group.

8. Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource:

Our buildings are a great resource and the recent quinquennial report both shows that the church building is well maintained but also needs maintenance which will draw on our buildings account significantly.

Are we using our buildings, church and hall, to their potential in our worship and service of our community?

When we look at the church building, the majority of the time it is closed and empty, what could we do to make better use of it? What could we do to the church building to make it a more flexible space for both worship and community events?

Our hall is a great resource, are we being as intentional as we could be in its usage? We hope that we might have some success in a bid for financial support to maintain and develop and the congregation has been generous in response to the appeal to raise funds towards this..

All in all there is a great deal to be thankful for. Despite this we cannot allow ourselves to be in any way complacent. Our very existence in our current state is in question - our age profile does not reflect our community, and we have much work to do if we are to be a healthy and growing Christian community. The challenges we face need a prayerful creative response.

With our prayers and blessings in Christ,

Guy and Catherine

Wardens' Report 2018

Gail, in the Parish Office, has ably continued supporting the wider parish. The role of wardens has become more focused with Keith being 'front of house', and me, along with other responsibilities, keeping the necessary administrative matters in order. Although this has worked well I am conscious that I am unable to support Keith and the Clergy in the necessary key holder, liturgical and leadership roles as my other responsibilities take up a considerable amount of my time, whether at home or away.

Accordingly there is a need for All Saints to review the duties that the Assistant Wardens (who act on behalf of the Wardens in absentia) undertake in supporting/shadowing Keith and myself.

I must not forget the Sidesmen who undertake an important role in greeting newcomers and being vigilant to issues regarding access (*Canon E2 assist the Churchwarden in discharge of their duties - maintaining order and decency*).

But it is thanks to you the congregation who have given the support throughout this time that has secured our continuing Christian mission.

Fabric

Church – the Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken in September and confirms that the building fabric is basically in a sound condition. There are some minor repairs as set out in the liabilities in the Treasurers Report.

Hall - whilst the building appears to be good order it is showing signs of needing attention. In particular, the roof over the kitchen, the windows, the kitchen and the servery in the Community Room. It is hoped that the revised bid to ASDA will enable these issues to be addressed.

Routine inspections - All necessary routine inspections and services to the heating, bells, lightning conductor etc. have been completed with any remedial works undertaken.

Goods and Ornaments - The goods and ornaments are in good order.

Finally, thank you all who worked to maintain the church in a splendid condition during 2018. I have received many pleasing comments, from visiting clergy and people who visited during the Sedgley Christmas Lights Festival, at the welcome received and the condition of the Church.

John Anderson - Warden.

Activities of All Saints District Church Council

Revd Guy and Catherine urged us to a more prayerful approach to our shared life. A Vision Day was held in October and highlighted a desire to set up more prayer and fellowship groups. These are being established and consistently supported. All are welcome.

Safeguarding – Barbara Baker has been approved as the Safeguarding Officer and all policies have now been signed off at PCC. We need to be more vigilant in managing risk and understanding people's roles.

Charity registration – Revd Catherine was successful in securing Charity Registration for the wider parish. This will mean a closer scrutiny, particularly of financial matters.

Children's and Young Disciples Diocesan Co-ordinator – Ruth Walker attended a meeting at St Andrews to see how she can help the churches. We need to balance the age of the congregation.

Mission Enabler– Helen Laird, has been with the parish since August and assisted with setting up a youth group and facilitating the Children's and Young People's Group.

WW1 Exhibition – was held, funded from the War Bonds that were cashed in some years ago. General agreement that exhibition was excellent, common relationships with soldiers brought families together. The annual remembrance service was well attended and the Memorium Archive dedicated.

Legacy policy – A legacy policy was approved and, as can be seen from the Trust Fund Income highlighted in the Finance Report, offers a way of securing All Saints Mission into the future.

Data Protection – Work continued to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations. Noted; Stewardship consents will be handled as data held purely for stewardship purposes unless otherwise requested.

Liturgies and hymn books – new liturgies and hymn books have been introduced.

Remembering the Deceased – a number of existing, ad hoc, policies were reviewed and it was agreed that flowers in two stands be provided by the DCC where a funeral takes place in Church it being felt this was more meaningful.

Fairer Shares – The Diocese repeated the Fairer Shares survey and thanks to all those who took part our Parish Quota has reduced as a result.

Church Hall

Caretaker - With the resignation of the Hall Caretaker we have been endeavoring to recruit a replacement with little success so far.

Hygiene Inspection – The hall was awarded 4*. A number of recommendations in process of being implemented

Hygiene Contract – A new contract was put in place

Grant to ASDA – Although not successful we have been invited to bid again and thanks noted to all who have generously supported the Restoration Appeal fund which with, potential further contributions in 2019, should enable £10,000 to support a grant bid.

Treasurer's Report

For the first time in All Saints history the full Parish Quota (£68,697) was not paid to the Diocese (£60,000 paid). In previous years an underlying deficit has been masked by changing payment arrangements (insurance paid monthly not annually) and bringing forward Gift Aid repayments. Allied to this the Diocese sought to recover previous years under recovery from other Churches by increasing the quota.

It has always been the case that, as a Charity under the umbrella of the Church of England, AS was required to follow guidelines issued by the Charity Commissioner. However, now as a registered Charity AS, as part of the Gornal and Sedgley Parish, will be under closer scrutiny. As such a deficit budget cannot be promoted.

In looking forward to 2019 an optimistic budget has been agreed that sets a challenge to raise income by at least £2,775. At this level it means that all repair work will now be drawn from the Buildings Fund.

Stewardship

In my capacity as Stewardship Officer I have analysed the returns from the last quarter of 2018 with those made in 2014 - when I first took on the role.

It is with grateful thanks that a number have increased their giving by, or in excess of, inflation. However, a large number have not changed. With inflation at 9% since 2014 an increase of that amount rounded up to the nearest pound would go a long way to addressing the deficit.

Liabilities – in the next 5 year period.

Church

- **Quinquennial Survey** – was undertaken in September 2018. Reports that the Church is generally in good to fair condition with no major concerns. Estimates work as follows:
 - Required now - £2,000
 - Within 2 years - £2,000
 - Within 5 years - £20,000
- Electrical Inspection – urgent and recommended matters - £1,500 (*now completed*)
- Trees – Report of Council's Arboricultural Officer - £1,500 (*order issued*)
- Organ – Circuitry is fragile replacement/refurbishment c£35,000.
- Although the boiler is working satisfactorily it is temperamental and replacement could be required c£10,000 (opportunity to enhance controls).
- The Sound System is now 25years old and replacement of the analogue system is a likelihood – c£10,000

Hall

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| • Flat roof over the kitchen | c£13,000 |
| • valley gutter on the pitched roof | c£2,000 |
| • Windows | c£10,000 |

It is hoped that a successful bid to ASDA ,to be made in March, will enable this and other issues (kitchen, food servery, Community Room Decoration, lights) to be addressed,

- Total liability c £107,000 (cf Restoration Fund £110,123 [incl Social club fund £7,843] - add Hall Appeal £9,000).

The foresight of the Restoration Fund means that holding these as reserves is essential

Legacy Policy

A Legacy Policy was adopted by DCC and is annexed to this report; increasingly this is seen as a way of securing All Saints future. Currently c£30 a month derives from an income legacy.

Reserves Policy

Reserves should only be held where there is a defined need, the Restoration Fund held as restricted funds be held as reserves to address the liabilities highlighted.

It is proposed that the unrestricted funds be held as Emergency Reserves for current expenditure.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

John Anderson

Church Account

2017	2018	Income	Comment
£7,362	£7,636	Cash Collections	
£46,765	£49,587	Planned giving	
£14,706	£13,446	Tax refunds	
£4,970	£1,700	Gift Day/Donations	
£73,803	£72,370	Total Collections	
£1,529	£1,513	Magazines	
£4,168	£4,259	Dividends	
£5,380	£4,900	Fundraising	
	£3,000	T&C Account	Repairs
£84,880	£86,042	Grand Total	

2017	2018	Expenditure	Comment
£3,136	£5,491	Church and Sanctuary	
£3,394	£3,255	Choir and Organ	
£3,850	£4,305	Church utilities	
£8,401	£4,388	Repairs Total	
£504	£1,682	Discretionary	
£442	£0	Gift Aid transfer to savings	
£63,080	£60,000	Parish Share	
£375	£0	Coach	
£200	£0	Jan	
£918	£720	Governance	
£0	£3,000	Fund raising to Hall	
£84,300	£82,840	Total	
£2,700	£2,400	Accruals	Charity Donations
	£85,240	Total	
	£801	Surplus	
	£86,042	Grand Total	

Hall Account

2017	2018	Hall	
£5,799	£4,523	Flat Rental	3 months Vacant (£1350)
£7,734	£8,007	Lettings	
£1,497	£2,891	Donation	Supporting ASDA bid
£15,030	£15,421	Total	

2017	2018	Hall	
£3,319	£4,097	Caretaker	
£3,295	£4,259	Utilities	
£6,320	£4,409	Running expenses	Incl ntc brds & 3mth rates (£1240)
	£2,754	To T&C Account	Supporting ASDA bid
£12,934	£15,519	Total	
	£137	Donation Accrual	
	£15,656	Total Expenditure	
	-£235.00	Deficit	
	£15,421	Total	

Parish Office Account

2017	2018	Parish office
£21,956	£19,154	Fees
	£19,154	Total

2017	2018	Parish Office
£16,715	£12,559	Fees
	£3,162	office
	£5,512	Admin
£332	£774	Expenses
	£22,007	Total
£679	£837	<i>Expenses Accrual</i>
£25,349	£22,844	Grand Total
	-£3,690	Deficit
	£19,154	Total

Pass Through Account - For Information Income collected on behalf of others

WW1 Exhibition	
£933	COOP Grant
£66	Donation
£215	War Bonds (Ex Barclays Savings)
£1,213	Total
£1,938	Water damage claim
£1,260	Bequest
Collections for Others	
£463	Christingle
£328	Woodsetton School
£420	Christmas Tree Festival
£35	Papyrus
£83	Crohns and Collitis
£584	Children with Cancer
£580	British Legion
£18	Charity Bottle Unassigned
£6,923	Total

WW1 Exhibition		
£1,147	WW1 Exhibition	
£316	stand	
£1,463	Total	
£2,038	Water damage	
£1,274	Hymn Books	
Collections for Others		
£463	Chistingle	
£328	Woodsetton School	
£36	Papyrus	
£83	Crohns and Collitis	
£580	Children with cancer	
£580	British Legion	
£6,845	Total	
£420	<i>Christmas Tree Salvation Army accrual</i>	
£18	<i>Unassigned charity Bottle Accrual</i>	
£7,284	Grand Total	
	-£361	Deficit
£6,923	Grand Total	

Investment Accounts

Barclays Business Saver Account - Unrestricted

Credit	Debit	
£9,567		Balance bf
	£880	Paul Wilmot
	£3,650	Noticeboards
£142		Legacy
	£270	Bibles
	£1,228	WW1 Memorium (War bonds £1213)
£12		interest
£9,721	£6,028	Total
£3,694	Balance at 31/12/18	

CBF Funds Summary

Credit	Debit	
£119,046		Balance 31/12/17
-£1,776		decrease value
£686		Deposit Fund
£117,273		Balance 31/12/18

CBF Funds Summary - Restricted

£103,452		opening balance
-£1,552		decrease Share Value
£101,900		Balance 31/12/18

Restricted Funds

Tipton & Coseley Restoration A/c contingency

Credit	Debit	
£3,849		Balance 31/12/17
£420		Organ Fund
	£3,000	Repairs
£3,000		Hall Fund raising (events)
£3,945		Donations for hall
£9		interest 30/12/18
£8,223		Balance 31/12/18

£110,123	Total Restoration Fund
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Shares held in Trust By Diocesan Board of Finance

£18,232	1129 Shares	Rwly,Lw& Kdsn,Avry,Fllws Beq
£1,708		Deposit Fund
£19,939		Balance 31/12/18

CBF Funds Summary Unrestricted

£14,910		opening balance
-£223		decrease Share Value
£14,687		Balance 31/12/18

£14,600	Organ Fund bf 2017	
£0	Weddings 2018 repairs in lieu	
£14,600	Total	Replacement circa £35,000

Note: Yields £354 income pa.

£12,299	Bells Fund bf 2015	
£0	Weddings 2018	Bells service (£184) in lieu
£12,299	Total	

£7,843	Social Club
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£75,381	Net Restoration Fund (Buildings)
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Charitable Giving

Note only includes donations made through the DCC accounts.

Following suggestions from the congregation	
Little Brothers Wolverhampton	£300
High Flyers Wombourne	£300
CHADD Dudley	£300
The Whitehouse Dudley	£300
WINGS Wombourne – Special Needs Support Group	£300
Black Country Women’s Aid – Independent Domestic Violence Advice Service	£300
WM Air Ambulance	£300
Beacon Centre	£300
Base 25 Wolverhampton – Supporting Young People in shaping their lives	£300
The Snowdrop Chemotherapy Suite at New Cross.	£300
Donations raised	
Children with Cancer - school carol concerts	£580
Salvation Army - Christmas Tree Festival	£420
The Children’s Society - Christingle service	£463
British Legion - Remembrance Service	£580
Woodsetton School donation for minibus	£328
Crohn’s and Collitis	£83
Papyrus	£36
Benefit in Kind	
Hall Lettings Policy (estimate)	£3,400
Total	£8.807



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SEDGLEY

Part of the parish of Gornal and Sedgley

All Saints' Church, Sedgley, Legacy Policy

At All Saints', we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small and we promise to use your gift to make a difference to our parish. Our DCC Legacy Policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your will for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose. We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind your known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid) and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry.

We acknowledge gifts in whatever way the donor and/or his/her executors feel most appropriate to. Equally, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous if the donor prefers.

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about the sorts of purposes your gift might fund, and how/if you would like your gift to be acknowledged, please contact Rev Guy Hewlett our Team Rector on 01902 295165 or email guyhewlett18@gmail.com or Rev Catherine Mitchell our Team Vicar on 01902 677897 or email revcatherinemitchell13@gmail.com.

If you would like to make a gift to our church in memoriam, please come and discuss this with us too. It can be a wonderful and appropriate way to remember a loved one.



Registered Charity 1179471

 Gornal and Sedgley Team

 @gornalsedgely

ALL SAINTS' BELL RINGERS

Annual Report 2018

We are delighted to report that we have new members to the band this year. There was a national campaign earlier in the year to try and recruit 1400 new ringers in remembrance of the 1400 who died in the first World War. In urgent need of new recruits ourselves, we decided to join the campaign and advertised locally. As a result, we had six people respond and start to learn to ring.

Currently, four of those have continued with their learning and now regularly attend pre-service ringing and practices. Thanks to their enthusiasm and the sterling efforts of Mary and Keith, they can now mostly ring rounds and simple call changes. We also have two more currently in the early stages of learning the ropes. We hope they too will become regular members of the band very soon.

The bells remain in good working order, only a few broken stays during the year – inevitable when teaching a number of new ringers!

Sue Anderson

Choir Report 2018

The choir has had a busy year, providing choral services for Good Friday and Nine Lessons. We are now having to change our repertoire, now that we have mostly ladies in the choir, and strive to produce 'good', simple music for our services.

September marked the introduction of a new hymn book, 'Mission Praise'. It marks a new era of hymn singing at All Saints, of not only the loved traditional hymns but also new hymns/worship songs looking forward to the future. I hope we all take the opportunity to learn, enjoy and make our services more spiritual.

I must also thank Joyce, All Saints' Singers and 'Singing for Pleasure' for their wonderful concerts through the year. Also not forgetting the ladies who sing at weddings.

On the organ situation, we are still only able to use half the number of stops. The organ man is looking nationally for the parts we need to make the organ sound majestic again.

We are still interested in hearing from members of the congregation who could help us out each Sunday, or for special services during the year.

Martin Platts

ALL SAINTS' SERVERS REPORT

Our servers continue to serve God week by week with dedication and commitment.

We are delighted that James Robinson has volunteered to be a server and he has become a valued member of the team.

During the year we met with Revd. Guy Hewlett to discuss our role at services.

The Server's Guild met for their annual service and AGM at All Saints' in October, to which the Stourbridge Chapter was invited.

I thank all the servers, you provide an invaluable service to the church which is greatly appreciated.

Len Millard, Head Server

OPEN THE BOOK REPORT

The 'Open the Book' team continues to take Bible stories into The Woodsetton School and Cotwallend Primary School on a monthly basis.

The project involves church members from across the team ministry who, this year, have enacted stories for Easter and Christmas and stories from the Old and New Testament. Each story ends with a reflection and prayer.

Our visits are well received by staff and children alike. A different group of children take part in each story and are delighted when they receive a sticker to say 'I helped Open the Book'.

Helen Laird, our Mission Enabler, visited our presentation of The Creation, at Woodsetton. She felt 'truly blessed to have been able to go into Woodsetton with us' and was very impressed with how the production went and our interaction with the children.

2019 marks 20 years of Open the Book and our team hope to celebrate this with our children and in our churches.

This is a valuable way of taking the Word to the next generation and building links with our local schools.

The 'Open the Book' Team

All Saints Junior Church Annual Report - March 2019

Junior Church currently has:

- two Leaders : Barbara Price and Debbie Bell,
- two Helpers: Denise Chappell and Linda Watkins.

We have two members of Junior Church, aged 4 to 7 years and one young helper aged 14 years.

This year Junior Church has taken an active part in the following services and events:

- ◆ **Mothering Sunday** – the children performed a short play called 'Automum', and did Readings & Intercessions. Daffodils were distributed to the ladies of the congregation at the end of the service.
- ◆ **Good Friday Workshop** – this was again very successful and remains popular. This year 51 children registered for the activities and all the parents stayed.
- ◆ **Confirmation Service** – two Junior Church children were confirmed in May 2018: Milly Germerney and Grace Fieldhouse.
- ◆ **Children's Festival** – the children were involved in readings and intercessions and presented a History of the Church. Five children received prizes and one child won the Best Attendance award.
- ◆ **Harvest Festival** – the children performed a short play called The Loaf that God Gave and the Brownies also joined in.
- ◆ **Christmas Fayre** – the 'Christmas' stall was prepared this year by Denise Chappell and was successfully run by Anne, Sarah and Tony Hart, making a profit of £113.70.
- ◆ **Christingle Service** – Junior Church performed a Christmas play at the service. The sum of £463 was collected for the Children's Society.
- ◆ **Childrens Blessing** – the Children have again been coming into Church for a blessing on the first Sunday of the month when possible.
- ◆ **February Holiday Workshop** – we are looking to expand our workshop's throughout the parish, and hold them on a regular basis.

This year has been challenging for us as we currently only have two active members. We also lost a valued team member in July, when Elaine Melhuish decided to retire after giving many years of service to Junior Church. We wish her well and thank her for her continued support of our events. We are now exploring ways in which we may be able to reach out to more young people in our parish.

Throughout this year I have been most grateful for the continued help and support of my 'Team': for, Debbie Bell as a Leader;

and particular thanks to Denise Chappell for running our stall at the Christmas Fayre; also to Linda Watkins for her continued help and support.

In addition, my grateful thanks go to the following people, who have given their time for us, and whose help I greatly appreciate:

Mary Zielonka – for playing the piano at the Good Friday Workshop.

Guy, Catherine & Jan for their support for the children.

Anne, Sarah & Tony Hart for their help with the Stall at the Christmas Fayre.

Martin Platts – for providing us with some 'lively' music at the Children's Services and for playing the organ at the Christingle Service.

All those who help at the Children's Workshops year after year.

Finally, my thanks also go to the many members of the congregation who encourage and appreciate the children's participation in morning services.

Barbara Price

All Saints' Junior Church & Youth Group, Sedgley

Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018

Income

Balance year ending 31.12. 2017	
Brought forward:	£
Building Society account	682.09
Cash in hand	97.36
Donations for Christingles	127.00
Donations for Workshop	9.70
Received from Church	0.00
Donation from E Little	10.00
Building Society Interest	<u>0.71</u>
	£ 926.86

Expenditure

	£
Resources	68.21
Mothering Sunday	31.00
Easter Workshop	69.86
Junior Church Festival	36.95
Presents & Gifts	16.00
Youth Group	20.00
Christmas & Candlemas	9.00
Christingle	<u>112.46</u>
Sub Total	363.48
Donation to Children's Society	29.54
Sub Total	
Cash in B. Society	£ 482.80
Cash in Hand	<u>£ 51.04</u>
	£ 926.86

LADIES SOCIETY
JANUARY~DECEMBER 2018

- JANUARY Mary Zielonka continued her story of working in Canada, reminiscing from the letters she wrote home.
- FEBRUARY Our member Pauline Turner recalled her journey from Hong Kong through Russia to Moscow taking in statues of Gengis Khan and the sights of Red Square and Lenin's Tomb
- MARCH Terry Church entertained us with stories of 'Radio & TV in 50's & 60's', He took us from the Home Service & Light Programme to Radio Luxemburg and Radio 2. BBC & ITV to all the satellite stations now available.
- APRIL 25 members attended 'The Mill Theatre' for a performance of 'Half of Sixpence'.
- MAY Bank Holiday, no meeting.
- JUNE We were due to go for an Evening Meal, but only 2 people put their names on the list, so this was cancelled.
- JULY The subject was 'Billy Butlin' in a very entertaining talk given by Andrew French.
- AUGUST No meeting.
- SEPTEMBER The A.G.M. was well attended by 26 members and was followed by cheese and wine Prayers were said for Pauline Turner. Who died at the end of August.
- OCTOBER 'Midland Freewheelers' or 'Blood Bikes' as they are known, were our charity this year. We were able to donate £250. To this good cause.
- NOVEMBER As we remembered the end of 'The Great War'. Barbra Price gave a talk of researching the names on the WW1 war memorial's in Sedgley and Gornal.
- DECEMBER Anne Clarke spoke to us about the traditions surrounding Christmas. Mince Pies and wine were provided by Jean to help her celebrate her birthday.

ALL SAINTS LADIES SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENSES ACCOUNT ENDING 31st December 2018

	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>INCOME</u>
Bank Balance as at 31.8.17		268.56
Membership Subs (2 years)		720.00
Refreshments	29.23	22.60
Raffle	8.00	42.50
Speakers	210.00	
Gifts to Members	14.56	
Flowers in Church (2)	60.00	
AGM (2)	88.30	
C.T. Festival (2)	30.00	
Prog. Printing	20.00	
Various	9.68	
Donation Bedazzle	200.00	96.00
Donation Midland		
Freewheelers	250.00	144.20
Theatre Ticket Refund		34.00
Donation		5.00
Bank Balance 31.12.2018	402.56	
Petty Cash 31.12.2018	10.53	
	£ 1332.86	£1332.86

JENNY LAVENDER
Hon. Treasurer

Checked by

LINDA EDWARDS
Hon. Secretary

3rd January 2019

ALL SAINTS' MENS SOCIETY ACCOUNTS FOR 2018

Building Society: NATIONWIDE, Sedgley Branch.

DATE	DETAILS	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	B/FOREWARD	BALANCE
	B/F from 2017				669.30
Jan 16th	Dinner for Vicar		£11.50	11.50	657.80
Feb 19th	Subscriptions 15x8	120.00		120.00	777.80
Mar 19th	RNLI per J Pittwood The Real 'Allo 'Allo		30.00 C/No 100028	30.00	747.80
3rd April	Defibrillator Appeal (Church Donations)	672.00		672.00	1419.80
7th April	Barn Dance	325.00		325.00	1744.80
7th April	Church Donation (from Barn Dance)		120.00	120.00	1624.80
7th April	200 Club donation (from Barn Dance)		55.00	55.00	1569.80
16th April	Barbara Price Tell them of us'		25.00 C/No 100029	25.00	1544.80
18th June	The Coseley Support Group Mike Sampson. Aspects of Comedy		40.00 C/No 100030	40.00	1504.80
18th Sept	Defibrillator Appeal (Church Donations)	172.00		172.00	1676.80
1st Oct	Defibrillator Appeal (Gift Aided from Skittles 2017)	147.00		147.00	1823.80
6th Oct	60s/70s Tribute Night	376.00		376.00	2199.80
6th Oct	200 Club Donation (from 60s/70s Tribute Night)		150.00	150.00	2049.80
19th Nov	Gorden Nicklin (Traveling with my camera)		35.00 C/No 100031	35.00	2014.80
24th Nov	Skittles Night	202.00		202.00	2216.80
24th Nov	200 Club Donation (from Skittles Night)		150.00	150.00	2066.80
1st Dec	Total Bank interests	1.32		1.32	2068.12

2015.32	616.50	2068.12
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CASH IN HAND :- NIL

NOTE: Above balance collaborated by B.S 'Statement of Account' No 11, Dated Jan 1st 2019

Prepared by & Date:- R Berry, 7/1/19

Auditor & Date:- Brian Chappell 21/1/19

NOAH'S ARK ANNUAL REPORT 2019

NOAH'S ARK has now been running for 24 years and we still have approx 40 children on the books plus a waiting list.

Donations this year were:-

Church Notice Boards	£200
Christmas Fayre	£50
Church Hall	£300
Various Other	£130

We had our usual activities throughout the year,

Easter bonnet Parade,

July and December Parties with Father Christmas in attendance for the December party,

At the beginning of December we went in to Church where Guy entertained the Children.

We also had a "PUDSEY" day raising money for Children in Need.

Support was also given to both the summer and December Bazaars

Leaders Linda & Jenny,

Helpers, Sandra, Barbara, Anne, Jean, Joyce, Linda, Lis. Liz and Keith

NOAH'S ARK ACCOUNTS JANUARY 2018 DECEMBER 2018

	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Balance Jan 18	725.60	
Fees	1402.66	
Interest	1.10	
Photo Commission	29.58	
<u>EQUIPMENT</u>		141.55
<u>REFRESHMENTS</u>		198.84
<u>EVENTS</u> (Inc Easter, Summer, Christmas etc)		457.27
<u>DONATIONS TO CHURCH, CHURCH HALL AND CHARITY</u>		
Church Notice Boards		200.00
Hamper Christmas Fayre		50.00
Church Hall Fund		300.00
Various Donations		135.00
Balance at December 2018		676.28
	<u>£2158.94</u>	<u>£2158.94</u>

J.A.LAVENDER TREASURER January 2019

Checked by LINDA EDWARDS

ALL SAINTS' AND ST ANDREW'S MOTHERS' UNION
BRANCH LEADERS' REPORT FOR 2018 PRESENTED AT 2019 AGM

'Walking in the Footsteps of Mary Sumner' was the Mothers' Union theme for 2018 and is something we aim to do through our membership day by day.

The year saw our members attend various Mothers' Union services, including the Wave of Prayer at All Saints' and Mary Sumner Day Service at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. We hosted the Deanery Festival at All Saints' in June and took as our theme 'Walking in Mary's Footsteps'. The service was led by Revd. Guy Hewlett, and our Diocesan President, Liz Green, gave the address. We were pleased to welcome Guy into our branch and enrol his wife Jackie. Members from across the Deanery were presented with Long Service Awards during the service including Gill Marsh for 30 years membership and Betty Ross for 40 years membership. Alice Bradley achieved 20 years membership and I presented her with her certificate at a later date.

It being the end of the Triennial, and Liz Green's term of office as Diocesan President, the Diocesan Festival was held at Worcester Cathedral and led by Bishop John who gave the address.

We continue to meet in an afternoon and evening, beginning our meetings with prayer and, on six occasions in the year, with Communion. This year we have met at St Andrew's on two occasions and will continue to do this in 2019.

Membership 'ebbs and flows' from year to year.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of May Smith, a dedicated and long-serving member of our branch and of St Andrew's Church.

Guy and Jackie joined our branch, and 2 lapsed their membership.

We now have 36 members, of whom 4 are IMPC members.

In October a group of us met for a MULO A session led by Liz Green and Judith Grubb. MULO A - 'Mothers' Union Listening Observing and Acting' - is an initiative aimed at creating a vision for the future that is grounded in members' views and experiences. This worthwhile exercise asked the questions:

Who are we as Mothers' Union? Whose lives could or should we be touching?

What difference are and could or should we be making in people's lives?

How do we most effectively make that difference?

Members continue to knit teddies, baby clothes and blankets for the prisons and hospitals, prayer shawls for Mary Stevens Hospice, prayer squares for church and fiddle muffs for residential homes, all of which are very much appreciated.

We continue to support 'New Beginnings' throughout the year and are grateful to members of the congregation who also support this cause.

Our Deanery Lenten project provided items for 'Starter Packs' and we were pleased that Karen was able to come and receive the items and give us an update on the work at CHADD. At Christmas members gave items for gift bags that could be given to the women and children at the Refuge.

The Mothers' Union President for the Canterbury Province, Nikki Sweatman, visited the Diocese at the beginning of October. Amongst the projects she visited was the

Women's Refuge where Karen gave a presentation, and a tour of the Refuge. Nikki was very impressed with what she saw and the support given by the members in the Deanery.

'Make a Mothers' Day' was supported by members and by the church as its Charity of the Month. £100 was raised to provide help for families here and abroad. In July we held our Cream Tea which was enjoyed by everyone and raised £384. This was divided between All Saints' and St Andrew's Churches and the Mothers' Union 'Summer of Hope Appeal'.

Our summer outing was to Stratford, on one of the hottest days of the year and at Christmas we enjoyed a meal at The Lodge.

Over the year speakers have covered a wide range of topics, from our President's visit to Uganda, Mothers' Union in France and how we are 'Following in Mary Sumner's Footsteps'. We heard how our clergy came into the ministry. There were times of reminiscence with Childhood Memories and 'A Song for Every Occasion'. We enjoyed hearing about Adventures in the Dordogne and who can forget the wonderful work of Discover U.

My thanks go to Guy and Jan, Anne our treasurer, Betty for organizing our afternoon speakers, Mary for doing MUE sales and to all the committee for the work they do for our branch and the support they give to me.

At the beginning of this Triennial may we hold our new Diocesan President, Judith Grubb, in our prayers.

The theme for 2019 is 'Listen, observe, act – in step with God' which I pray we will continue to do through our support of the Mothers' Union aims and our care for each other.

Liz Williams
Branch Leader

SEDGLEY ALL SAINTS AND ST ANDREWS M.U. 2018

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Opening Balance	£269.74	Women's Refuge Gift Bags	£ 25.00
Petty Cash	£ 17.55	Diocese of Worcester	£1032.00
Subscriptions	£925.00	M.U. Badges	£ 7.30
Dorothy's Legacy	£325.00	Make a Mothers Day	£ 100.00
Raffles	£ 45.00	Diocesan Festival Flowers	£ 22.00
Coffee Club	£ 18.50	Phillips Travel (Stratford)	£ 350.00
Make a Mothers Day	£100.00	Returned trip money	£ 20.00
Stratford Trip	£350.00	AFIA Fund	£ 100.00
Donations	£ 52.00	Branch donation to M.U. Projects	£ 128.00
Cream Tea	£128.00	Mary Sumner Flowers	£ 22.00
Diocesan Coach	£200.00	Coach Worcester Diocese	£ 200.00
Christmas Dinner	£396.00	Women's Refuge	£ 100.00 *
M.U. Christmas cards etc.	£260.14	Lodge Dinner	£ 379.50
		Wedding Anniversary cards	£ 4.75
		Refund dinner	£ 16.50
		M.U. Christmas cards etc.	£ 260.14
		Leaders Expenses	
		Speakers Gifts	£23.00
		Cards	£12.25
		Flowers	£26.80
		Birthdays/Anniversaries	£20.78
		Deanery Festival Refreshments	£11.00
			£ 93.83
		Petty Cash	£ 16.55
		Bank Balance	£ 209.36
Total	£3086.93		£3086.93

* Uncleared cheque £100.00

I certify that this is a true record
of the Mothers Union Account
for All Saints + St Andrews

Robertson

ALL SAINTS' COFFEE CLUB

The money in this account comes from donations for coffee and tea after the Sunday morning service and at the Friday morning 'Church Opening'. It is a valuable source of income which is used to provide items needed for the church and for the church ministry. We thank you for your donations and thank the members of the congregation who serve the coffee and tea on Friday and Sunday mornings.

The list below shows how the money has been used during the year.

Baptism Anniversary Cards

Donation towards church raffle prizes

Donations to Fairtrade and Make a Mothers' Day

Donation to Church Hall Appeal

Donation to the Diocesan Secretary, Robert Higham, retirement collection

Serving coffee and tea after the Sunday service gives people the opportunity to chat with other members and visitors to the church.

Our 'Church Opening' on a Friday morning is quite popular and supported by a regular group as well as visitors wishing to look around the church, people interested in the history of the church, and those who wish to have a time of quiet.

All Saints Church Sedgley Coffee Club Accounts for 2018

Income

Opening Bank Balance b/wd	£765.08
Sedgley Fair Trade	£22.10
Mothers Day Project	£20.00
Christian Aid	£0.00
Coffee Money	£757.20

Expenditure

Sedgley Fair Trade	£22.10	Cash
Mothers Day Project	£20.00	Cash
Fairtrade Biscs Coffee & Tea	£138.28	Cheque
Coffee tea biscuits etc.	£37.04	Cash
All Saints Church Hall Appeal	£300.00	Cheque
C Williams - Raffle Prize	£50.00	Cheque
C Williams - Rubber Gloves	£8.39	Cheque
Defibrillator	£100.00	Cheque
Baptism Cards	£42.00	Cheque
Mothers Union Donation	£18.50	Cash
Pencil Crayons - Children's Corner	£5.50	Cash
Summer Raffle	£50.00	Cheque
Worcester DBF Retirement Gift	£50.00	Cheque
Closing Bank Balance c/wd	£722.57	

I confirm that this is a true record of All Saints Sedgley Coffee Club Account from books and records produced.

Robert J Hill B A

ALL SAINTS 200 CLUB ACCOUNT 2018

December 2018

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Balance December 2018	£1983.00	
Members Contributions	£520.00	
Donation 60/70 Night	£150.00	
Donation Skittle Evening	£75.00	
Interest	£2.11	
Income Total	£747.11	
4 Yearly Draws		£120.00
Donation to Notice Boards		£800.00
Donation to Church Hall Fund		£225.00
Expenditure Total		£1145.00
Balance December 2018	£ 1585.11	

Prepared by Jenny Lavender Trustee

Checked by Roger Berry Trustee

Report on All Saints Fair Trade activities 2018

This year again, we feel we have sold rather fewer items to our congregation. We continue to work with Clunis Chesworth from St. Andrew's Bilston St., who is Chair of the Sedgley Fairtrade Initiative, and also Andy Cornaby who has taken over the running of their regular stall. Asda does not sell fair trade goods except, occasionally, flowers. If a new Aldi or Lidl comes to Sedgley we believe they may stock Fair Trade products.

There is no local Co-op store or other outlet stocking Fair Trade goods, but Katherine at HumBugs, in Penny Farthing Arcade is stocking some items. She is a keen Fairtrader and we would appreciate the congregation supporting her business.

Fair Trade Fortnight was successful in terms of church activities, as usual. We sold goods over the two weeks, and cakes at the coffee morning were donated, and the profits given to Fair Trade. This year we did not put a stall in Café Capella, as it was not well supported by the public. We tried a 'pop-up' stall in Sedgley – giving out free small chocolate bars. This roused some interest but we don't think it resulted in more purchases overall.

This year we did not have a stall at the Community Centre as it clashed with another of their activities.

The stall at the Christmas Fair was supported, but not as well as in the previous year, but we sold both craft goods and food items. Christmas cards sold well, and make us a profit. (See below)

We continue to hold the regular stall on the first Sunday of each month, and we do urge people to support this. Only a minority of the congregation look at the stall. Our best selling items are the cards which are excellent value still held at £1.00 each. Chocolates and biscuits are the other staples. We are always open to suggestions and can buy individual items from the Wolverhampton Fair Trade shop in Darlington Street, at the back of the Methodist Church – open Tuesday – Saturday (morning).

In the autumn we had worrying news about the main Fair Trade outlet in Newcastle. They have had to shed a great many staff, and are cutting back on the items they sell. This, unfortunately has been at the expense of the craft producers. However, the Wolverhampton shop has a variety of other suppliers so, hopefully, we can still get socks and card from them.

We are hoping to be able to send a donation to Fairtrade foundation to help support the work of the craft producers, when we have consolidated our finances from the Christmas period.

We also need more volunteer helpers. Thanks go to Barbara Baker and Elaine Melhuish for their constant support, and Cath Apperley who also helps when she can. Their help is much appreciated – and thanks also go to David Melhuish for help with furniture moving and general support.

The Sedgley Fair Trade Initiative has lost some businesses. There is a big problem with various big supermarkets, particularly Sainsbury's, withdrawing from the Fair Trade label, and Cadbury's chocolate, too. We are always looking for more business and shop support in order to keep our Fair Trade Town status. The Fair Trade Foundation is being more lenient but we still need support.

We hope to support Fair Trade in 2019 and we hope that Government will again offer to match fund anything raised during Fair Trade Fortnight this year, so please support our activities. We hope that the imminent change in trading circumstances will not affect Fair Trade too much, but as many items are imported, it might result in price increases.

The principle of supporting the Third World to better themselves in terms of crop management, education and food production in an ethical manner continues to be the aim of Fair Trade and we look for the continued support of the PCC and the church family in our efforts.

Cicely Thomas
On behalf of the Fair Trade Team
January 2019

BLACK COUNTRY FOOD BANK

The Black Country Food Bank has been operating as 'Springs' at Upper Gornal Methodist Church for over seven years. It is open on Monday morning from 10am to 12noon. There are nineteen regular volunteers, some of whom come every week, with at least ten of us on duty each week. We are very fortunate in that all our volunteers have remained fully committed and work together extremely well.

The volunteers are from :

Upper Gornal Methodist Church (12)

St. Peter's Upper Gornal (Tracey, Maureen, David & Sheila)

All Saints' Sedgley (Mary & Chris)

St. Andrew's, The Straits (John)

We receive donations of food and non-food items from churches, schools, businesses, community organisations and private individuals in this area. Thanks to the generosity of all these organisations, we are self-supporting. We always have enough food to stock our shelves, and surplus to take to BCFB HQ at Brierley Hill most weeks. Last year we received over six tonnes of food and gave out approximately two tonnes.

Those in need come to us with vouchers issued by various agencies, for example Jobcentres, social workers, health visitors, doctors and schools. The number of clients has been constant over the last three years, at just over one hundred. Of these 80% were single, 8% were couples and 12% were families. The continuing roll-out of Universal Credit causes typically a wait of six weeks before the first payment is received. At a recent session, for example, of fifteen clients coming to us for help, thirteen of them were waiting for their first payment of Universal Credit. Some clients receiving Universal Credit were overpaid in December, resulting in underpayment in January, causing an increase in visits to foodbanks.

Our grateful thanks from all of us at 'Springs' for your continuing generosity and prayers. You make a great difference to those in desperate need.

Chris