

TRINITY UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

TORR LANE, HARTLEY, PLYMOUTH

www.trinityurplymouth.org.uk

ANNUAL REPORTS 2017

MINISTERS REPORT	3	MEN'S FELLOWSHIP	15
ART EXHIBITION	4	MINCE PIES & COFFEE	16
AUDIO OPERATORS	4	MINISTERIAL LIAISON	16
TRINITY AFTERNOON BADMINTON	4	MP3 PLAYERS	16
BIBLE READERS	5	MUSIC MINISTRY	17
BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP	5	PASTORAL CARE	17
BIG BUILD PROJECT	5	PLYMSTOCK HOUSE GROUP	18
CHRISTIAN AID	6	PRAYER LIST	18
CHRISTMAS FAYRE	7	PUBLICITY & MARKETING	19
CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES	8	PULPIT SUPPLY	19
CHURCH GARDEN & OUTSIDE AREAS	8	SCOTISH COUNTRY DANCING	20
CRADLE ROLL	9	SUNDAY HOUSE GROUP	20
DERRIFORD CHAPEL ROTA	9	SUNDAY STROLLERS	21
DISPLAY BOARDS	9	SUNSHINE BAGS	21
FACEBOOK	9	SOUTHWEST SYNOD	21
FLOWER ARRANGERS	10	TABLE TOP SALES	22
FRIDAY AFTERNOON FILM CLUB	10	TALC	22
FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB	10	THURSDAY HOUSE GROUP	23
FRIENDSHIP BAGS	11	TREASURY	23
HALL BOOKINGS	11	TRINITY TIDINGS	24
JUNIOR CHURCH	12	TYPISTS	24
KITCHEN	13	TRINITY WEBSITE	24
LADIES FELLOWSHIP	14	CHURCH SECRETARY & ELDERS	25

MINISTER'S REPORT

The first six months at Trinity United Reformed Church have been a time of settling in and getting to know the congregation. With members and friends of Trinity URC being the warm-hearted people they are, it has been a joy to already get to know a good number of people.

The elders of the church are a group of able and spiritual people, who have worked hard during the four years of interregnum. Their pastoral care for church members and adherents is well-organised and an overall good communication exists. The role of the pastoral co-ordinator is of great value here. As a result, people connected to the church seem to have a strong sense of belonging.

During the 'season of invitation' the congregation was encouraged to invite family and friends as well as the nearby community to come to church. Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas services were great opportunities to welcome new people.

A poppy display was created in the church for Remembrance Sunday. People were able to view this in the week leading up to the Sunday with the church being open at set times.

Sunday worship has changed in that hymns are now projected on a screen most Sundays. This enables the use of a wider range of worship resources. As a result of the temporary screen at the front of the church, the choir has moved down to the main floor. After a time of trial with positive feedback, a proposal has been made to install permanent screens and bring the audio-video in line with modern technology.

As a community of faith, the church longs to be a clear presence in the community and has a vision for a more transparent building. Thanks to the commitment of members and the work done by the Big Build Committee, planning permission was applied for and subsequently granted in the autumn. It is recognised that the magnitude of these plans can become overwhelming if not continuously held up in prayer before God by a congregation wishing to seek God's face. Therefore, a monthly prayer meeting was started at the beginning of December.

Unfortunately, the provision of junior church came to an end in the summer due to low numbers of children attending and family commitments of junior church leaders. However, this is not seen as 'a point of no return,' especially since several church members rejoiced in the birth of a baby this year. Furthermore, Hartley is an increasingly young community where the church certainly can play a role. In the absence of junior church, a toy area with bean bags has been set up in the midst of the congregation to accommodate young families attending church.

Exciting times lie ahead for Trinity URC and it is with trust in God's ongoing faithfulness that the church is facing the future.

Henriette

ART EXHIBITION

Many thanks to all who helped. It makes such a difference if we have plenty of helpers and it was especially good to have a number of men on the putting up and taking down times.

Valerie Bott and her teams did a wonderful spread each day for food. We sold 66 full meals, 44 Paninis or toasted sandwiches and 16 soups and delicious desserts. The Friday figure was boosted by the organists who were having their AGM in the Church and joined us for lunch. We also enjoyed strains of organ music coming through to us when they were playing the organ. The food profit for lunches and teas etc was £684.84.

We sold 12 pictures, 7 browsers, 114 cards and 188 catalogues. The total profit was £1249.19 which is £170 more than last year. Several of the artists thank us for putting on this exhibition as it is often the only place where they can sell their work. We thank them for providing us with such good quality paintings and such variety that helps make the exhibition so worth while.

Jill Stidson

AUDIO OPERATORS

Our regular Sunday morning services are recorded each week, fed through the speakers in church and fed through the hearing aid loop which can be picked up in the seating area of the church. The recording is given to John Crosswaite to be put onto our MP3 players. The recording is also put on our Church Website, so if you miss a Sunday for any reason you can still benefit from the service via a computer on the internet.

I control the Audio from the console but am grateful on occasions to those who stand in when I am unavailable. Many thanks to all who help in this way.

Chris Pasmore

TRINITY AFTERNOON BADMINTON

We meet in the large hall each Monday afternoon officially between 2 and 4 (although we often go over our time on both ends) There are 17 on our books but we usually get about 10 - 12 each week. We have a board with names on movable bits of card (beautifully done by Trevor) so that we can work out an order of play. We always have a cuppa and there is plenty of time between games to chat.

At our AGM Penny Watson was appointed Chairperson. Jill Stidson Secretary and Elizabeth Rickard Treasurer. We donated £800 to Church funds for use of the hall. We joined together with past members for a meal at the Whitsand Bay hotel and as some of the group could not come we had another meal later in the year.

Jill Stidson

BIBLE READERS

Our Bible readers are on a rota published in Trinity Tidings and I usually contact them to alert them to the readings required and to be sure they will be in church on a particular Sunday. If anyone would like to join our group please contact me.

David Woolley

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

We have had one new subscriber this past year making a total of eight.

Daily notes offer a short Bible reading, explanatory notes and a thought or prayer to finish. They are not long but very helpful and a good discipline for regular bible reading.

Penny Watson

BIG BUILD PROJECT

A full report of the project has been given by the Big Build convenor in a separate report. The following are the main achievements in 2017:

A 'Pre-Planning Application,' was prepared which included a Local Consultation Day for our community, both in and outside the church. This was set for Saturday 25th February. The atmosphere was friendly and relaxed and the number of representatives of church versus visitors was ample and not overbearing. Each visitor, or family representative was invited to give feedback after their visit. Approximately 30 attended: hirers, neighbours and church members, and a condensed resumé of their feedback is as follows:

'Torr Estate is a good place to live, but has lacked immediate community facilities.'

'A positive project a welcome addition to the area...but please consider practicalities.'

'Great for the community - it's a fabulous build, especially in bringing people together.'

'a big improvement in access – The building needs refreshing.'

'Excellent project, Anxious about car parking'

'Excited by the project, but apprehensive about additional cars and footfall into the road.'

'Deep concern that there will be a serious accident with increased parking issues and suggest more use of double yellow lines in Torr Lane.'

'Ambitious plan and worthwhile project.'

'Happy to see renovation and attractive design.'

The 'Pre-Planning Application,' was submitted and favourably accepted by the Planning authority.

On 21st August we sent the full plans of our Big Build Project, namely 'The Creation of a New Main Entrance Concourse,' to the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Office of Plymouth City Council. On the 11th October - via the Planning Office and our architects, Mr John Marsh, and Mr Alex Wood of MEB Design Kent, we heard that planning permission had been granted.

The cost has been known from the day when the plans were presented in church by our Architect John Marsh, and Quantity Surveyor Roland Gilbert in April 2016 at £888,906.

Alex Hawtin continues as treasurer with the assistance of Jill Stidson. At the time of this report he is negotiating the 'CAF on-line Banking Scheme' recommended by SW Synod.

On Wednesday 1st November, during the elder's meeting the elders received a presentation on 'Managing The Big Build Project - the way forward'.

The presentation highlighted the need to:

Establish an identification brand for the Trinity URC Big Build Project.

Keep everyone informed in the process.

Review the implications of the planning permission proviso's.

Establish schemes to find funding for the project.

Encourage ownership while creating opportunities to give generously.

This was warmly received, and a request made that the presentation be given to the church meeting in January 2018.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week ran from the 14th to the 20th May. As in 2016, our fund raising was based around a mixture of activities rather than the focus being on the 'house to house' collections of previous years. There were a few stalwarts, however, who braved delivering envelopes around some of the roads locally. They managed to collect £162.00, so many thanks to them. Posting the envelopes means that Christian Aid is given a public face so, provided I can gather a few willing volunteers, we will be delivering again in 2018. The envelopes had an invitation attached asking them to return them to the church on Saturday morning the 20th and to share a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. Sadly, as in 2016, not many of the local community took up the invite. However, as always, the event was well supported by members of the congregation and friends so, thanks to their generosity, we raised £257.68. This included selling cakes after church on Sunday morning.

As in 2016, we held a Lenten lunch on the 2nd March. This was a repeat of the 'Soup and Sausage' lunch. As always, there was a lovely atmosphere and we raised £160.00. Thanks go to everyone who helped with the event, and for everyone who came along and shared the meal.

Our final fund raiser was a Cream Tea held on June 24th. This was very well supported and we raised the grand sum of £225.00. Again, many thanks to everyone who helped or supported. We had a very pleasant afternoon.

Finally, with monies added from the Communion retiring collection and the 'Count your Blessings' initiative, our total raised in 2017 was £912.90. This really is an amazing amount.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the fund raising in any way. Your continued generosity really makes a difference.

Christian Aid Week for 2018 is Sunday 13th – Saturday 19th May. We are holding a 'Big Brekkie' on Sunday 13th, before the service so watch Tidings and the notices for further information.

Lindsay Grosch

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 25th November 11.00am -2.00pm. In following the format of previous years, the proceeds were to be divided equally between the church and the chosen international charity voted for at church meeting on the 30th July which was 'The East African Children's Playground Scheme'. This had been nominated by Katriona Goodsell who had recently been involved through Plymouth University, in the building of one such playground.

Many other worthy charities nominated for support are as listed: Water-Aid; UNICEF in Syria; Medecins sans Frontieres; Rainbow Project – later withdrawn, Practical Action, The African Children's Choir and Mother Teresa Children's Foundation.

To advertise the event a large Christmas tree was purchased and erected outside the church hall. It stayed on site throughout the festive season drawing appreciative comments from Consort Residents and passer's by. Thanks are due to John Crosswaite, Jeremy, Graham and Mike who between them collected, installed and decorated, continuing the theme of lights and stars into the building - especially in the sanctuary, where Jeremy, with support, suspended stars to give that 'extra-terrestrial' feel, which appropriately remained throughout the season.

Lindsay Groach and Andrea Middleton had agreed to provide lunches on the day and had requested that they were served in the large hall instead of the church as in recent years.

In agreeing it meant the main stalls were set up in the actual church, spreading the event throughout the building. To assist directing would be visitors, we engaged the services of an 'elf', namely Henriette, 'who walked the walk, and talked the talk'. A valuable asset.

The Lunches of course were extremely popular, and in fact sold out after many covers were provided. Well done Lindsay and Andrea, your expertise and commitment go before you. Stalls included Raffle, Re-cycled gifts, Mini Christmas Hampers, Coffee and Teas, lunches, Games and brain teasers, Bric-a-Brac, Preserves and produce, books, cakes and jewellery. The 'Nearly-new Boutique,' seemed to explode with commodities, meaning hard work in sorting by Myrna and her helpers Yvonne and Judith, but didn't they do well, as they were a little nervous in following in the ever able hands of Sheila and Bill Elliot who had recently moved to sunnier climes in Exmouth!

So what was the result, £2161.29 a splendid endeavour, which was split equally between the chosen charity and the church. A BIG THANK YOU to all involved, and in particular to Fiona Tudor who so ably worked with me in the planning.

Mary McFarlane & Fiona Tudor

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

Many thanks to everyone who helped towards the Christmas Shoe Boxes we sent to Samaritans Purse in November. With your great generosity 143 children will be introduced to the God of Love with the opportunity to learn more of our Lord Jesus by following a short course called 'The Greatest Journey'.

Thank you everyone for your donations including the outside bodies who use our halls. Gifts put in the collection box in church, gifts of money to purchase items required, those who have collected items throughout the year as they are put on offer, those who have been knitting during the year making hats, gloves and scarfs, those who brought back complimentary cosmetics supplied in hotels, and not forgetting those who gave so generously to offset the carriage charges for the boxes assembled in church. A special thank you to all who supported our efforts with prayer.

Chris Pasmore

CHURCH GARDEN AND OUTSIDE AREAS

To paraphrase a line from R&S 210: 'We have a man with a fork and trowel'. As many of you are aware, Robert Willis has been indisposed for a long period and, as a result, he has been admitted to Derriford Hospital. It is a testament to his work that the gardens have not been overrun with weeds. Fortunately, the Management Committee have oversight of the church buildings, so the work of clearing drains and gutters has been covered by general maintenance and work days. It is suspected that Robert will no longer be able to exercise his creative talents and it will need someone else to pick up the fork and trowel.

CRADLE ROLL

Birthday cards continue to be sent to the children who are on the Cradle Roll until they are 3 years old.

Last year invites were sent out to our special Mother's Day Service.

There was one Christening and one blessing during 2017. Willow Anne Taylor was Christened in a lovely service attended by family and friends on 2nd July by Rev. Edgar Daniel.

Kai Roberts was given a naming service and blessing by our new Minister Rev. Henriette Wentink on 27th August, also attended by family and friends.

Elizabeth Hamilton

DERRIFORD CHAPEL ROTA

Patients in Hospital do appreciate being taken to the service on Sunday mornings. We have one volunteer who joins others to go around the wards on Saturday to collect names of those wishing to attend. On the Sunday morning there are 6 of us who help out joining with others from North Plymouth Churches. We finish in time to get back to Trinity for the morning service. Our turn comes around every 6 weeks.

Jill Stidson

DISPLAY BOARDS

Photographs of activities in Trinity are regularly posted on our display boards which stand at the rear of our church or in the large hall. If you take pictures of any Church activity, please let me have a copy - preferably digital - and they can be added to the boards.

Chris Pasmore

FACE BOOK

Face book is used to promote events and our worship in Trinity. It is an easy way to keep followers aware of what is going on and has made a difference to enhance many activities. If you use Face book to communicate with friends please become a follower of our page and by simply pressing 'like' or 'share' on any of our posts as this boosts coverage considerably.

Chris Pasmore

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Yet another year has passed and we have been blest to have flowers in the Church each week, this is thanks to the congregation who generously give us money for flowers for special occasions or kindly donate via the box in the Vestibule.

Please if you wish to supply flowers on a particular day could you enter your name on the list in the vestibule and we will do our best for you.

Special thanks must go to my very willing and able helpers Mary, Debbie and Jane. Please continue to enjoy the flowers, we enjoy arranging them, but please when you have finished the enjoyment could the pots be returned to the Church, we seem to have mis-laid quite a few this year and as we are only funded by donations it becomes expensive. Thank you all for your continued support.

Sue Stidever

FRIDAY AFTERNOON FILM CLUB

Our Friday Afternoon Film Club has had a successful year with an average attendance of 23 many of whom are not Church members. We have had a variety of film genres to suit all tastes.

We always have popcorn, sweets, cakes and tea or coffee available to make it a pleasant afternoon for members of our church and residents in the surrounding area. We are not allowed to advertise this event outside our premises to conform to the licensing rules, but news of this venture is growing in the community. There is no charge for admission. You are welcome to make a donation towards the refreshments if you wish. There is no obligation to do so.

The film follows the Lunch Club normally on the second Friday of each month starting at 2.00pm so together make a relaxing afternoon to enjoy each other's company.

Chris & John Pasmore

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

Our Lunch Club has continued to provide good quality lunches to all in our local community. We always include a roast dinner and other various seasonal main meals each month. For those who enjoy the company but have not the appetite for a full meal at lunch time 'lighter bites' are available. There is also a varied selection of sweet dishes each month.

The Lunch club takes place on the second Friday of each month and followed by the Friday Film Club.

The event has proved to be very popular offering good food and good fellowship. It is not only Church members who enjoy the hospitality. Do come and enjoy a pleasant afternoon.

Chris & John Pasmore

FRIENDSHIP BAGS

During 2017 Judith North and Yvonne Greener prepared bags for 21 church members - each delivered to the person concerned usually by the appropriate Elder.

The seven small wrapped gifts within consist of such diverse items as chocolates, small jars of jam / marmalade, and pocket size crossword books - each gift has a biblical text attached. No two bags are the same and to date have been well received with good feedback.

Funding comes from donations and the benevolent fund, more bags are in the offing, and donations in kind or monetary help would always be gratefully received.

Yvonne Greener and Judith North

HALL BOOKINGS

Around June 2017, David Woolley took over as Hall Booking Co-ordinator, with Janette acting as his assistant.

In 2017, although we lost a couple of groups, we welcomed some new groups to our halls.

We had a very successful year in 2017 with a variety of groups meeting each week; the large hall continues to be the most popular and sought after hall.

The premises are used on a regular basis for activities which include exercise classes, dancing practice, educational groups and recreational groups, plus our regular church events of Ladies Fellowship, Film Club, the growing Lunch Club, Choir and Table Top Sales etc.

There is the new addition of a Prayer Group on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.15pm in the church, to which everyone is welcome to attend. We continue with our monthly mid-week Communion which has moved to the new regular time of 2.00pm on the first Wednesday of the month and again, everyone is welcome to attend this quiet and intimate time.

We have our own organist, David Stevens and another organist (also named David) who make use of our organ for their practice. James has now moved to London and we hope that he will find a new venue to continue his organ practice.

In addition to our regular groups, we try to accommodate occasional bookings and parties where possible.

All rooms are available to see (with dimensions) on the Trinity URC website.

Booking information posters are posted in the vestibule and large hall, giving contact details; there are also cards detailing the contacts on the bookings notice board and on the vestibule table, please take one.

As things can change quite quickly regarding bookings, it is advisable to enquire as early as possible if you wish to book a hall for a church function. We are happy to add you to the calendar as a tentative booking, even if the date isn't set completely, and rearrange it if necessary at a later date.

We thank all our groups for their continuing support in using our premises and look forward to a successful 2018.

David Woolley & Janette Duncalf

JUNIOR CHURCH

This report covers the period from January to July 2017, when the Junior Church leaders retired.

The New Year began with a visit to the Theatre Royal on the 13th January to see the pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the production which provided great entertainment from all the cast. We were also entertained by Pat Bogue's grandson, Matthew, who was chosen to go up onto the stage with 3 other children. They all had to pick an animal and make the noise of the animal to "Old Macdonald had a farm". Matthew chose a fish and certainly entertained the audience!!!

Mothering Sunday was on the 26th March, and on this occasion members of the Junior Church distributed daffodils to all the ladies in the congregation.

During the service on Sunday 18th June, Father's Day, members of the Junior Church distributed flowers to all the men in the congregation.

At the beginning of the year the Junior Church leaders made the decision to retire at the end of July. The experience of working with the youngsters, who were always enthusiastic and willing, was extremely rewarding over many years.

To end the year with the Junior Church, the leaders and 5 youngsters from the Junior Church visited the Warner Village for a game of ten pin bowling followed by a meal at Pizza Express. Everyone had a great time.

The leaders really appreciated the beautiful, engraved glass tea light holders that were presented to us in recognition of our service to the Junior Church, certainly a gift to treasure.

On the first Sunday in every month the young people served coffee and sold cakes that were made and brought from home, for Junior Church funds.

Children were sent cards on their birthday and when they were unwell.

How the Junior Church was made up:-

JUNIOR CHURCH ELDER	Chris Pasmore
TREASURER	Pat Bogue
SECRETARY	Kathy Behan

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT - 1 child on the register.
UP TO 7 YEARS

TEACHERS	Andrea Middleton, Barbara Godfree, Kathy Behan
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JUNIOR DEPARTMENT – 5 children on the register.
7 YEARS TO TEENAGERS

TEACHERS	Ruth Bray, Sandra Macdonald, Pat Bogue
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Kathy Behan

KITCHEN

Having just spent the morning counting plates, mugs, cutlery etc. and other kitchen items for another annual inventory, I can report that the kitchen equipment is in good order for another year.

We have enough crockery, cutlery and glasses to accommodate for 100 people. There are two new microwaves, two large catering sized vacuum flasks for coffee, two stainless steel kettles, a slow cooker and other electrical items which make preparing meals for large numbers easier. The fridge/freezer allows food to be stored on site.

Although a few breakages have occurred, it is only to be expected bearing in mind the number of functions throughout the year and the different people using the kitchen.

We cater for coffee mornings, lunches and teas at all the major events in the church calendar as well as occasional social functions. Many different people from the wider community use our facilities.

Thank you to all the unseen and sometimes frustratingly hard work by the kitchen teams who produce amazing meals again and again. My thanks also to all who try to keep the kitchen clean, tidy and ready for the next occasion. You are appreciated!

Once again we look forward to the greater effort of the 'Big Build' project when the kitchen will play a major part in fund raising.

Fiona Adams

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

The Ladies Fellowship, who usually meet on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm in the back hall, are decreasing in numbers and would love to have more ladies to join them. We usually have a speaker or activity and always followed by a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Two of our members celebrated their 90th Birthdays this year, Patricia Twyman and Joan Shotter. Sadly, 3 of our members passed away, Joan Richardson (just 4 months before her 100th birthday), Joyce Cummings and Lavinia Bailey.

Each of our sessions started with a Bring & Buy Stall which raised £101.90 throughout the year for general expenses which includes donations and speaker fees.

The spring session included talks about Rheumatoid Arthritis, High Street Shops, Liver 4life and Devon Free Wheelers. We were so impressed with Sheila Connolly from Liver 4life that we decided to make it our charity for next year. The season ended with a Quiz afternoon. Our AGM was held in March and the following appointments were made:

Chairman – Jean Burgess

Secretary – Valerie Bott

Assistant Secretary – Pat Bogue

Treasurer – Ruth Criddle

Assistant Treasurer – Avril Worley

Piano – Gwenno Rogers, Betty Hamilton and Mary McFarlane

Teas & coffees – Linda Wellington

Birthday & Get Well Cards – Avril Worley

Bring & Buy Stall – Margaret Popplestone,

Audrey Milford and Audrey Wastnage

The decision was made to keep our weekly contribution towards tea and biscuits at 50p and the yearly membership fee at £6. This year we donated £200 to the Church's Gift Day collection at Easter time.

Our summer session included talks about Scams from a Trading Standards representative and the Samaritans. Our annual spring lunch was at the Duke of Cornwall hotel in April which was

enjoyed by all who went. The annual charity coffee morning in June raised £262.75 for Longcause Special School. In July we had our coach outing to Teignmouth where we enjoyed browsing around the sea front and shops. We then boarded the coach which took us to Langstone Cliff Hotel for a cream tea. The coach driver and staff at the hotel were all very friendly and helpful, a big improvement on our trip to Whitsand Bay the year before. The season ended in July with a cream tea in the Church Hall and entertainment with Mary McFarlane.

The autumn session included speakers from The Rainbow Project, a talk from our new minister, Rev. Henriette Wentink, a visit from Pat Stead who talked about the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Shop, and talks about JFK and the RNIB. Our cream tea in October and takings from the refreshments stall at the Christmas Fayre amounted to £340.30 for the Fayre funds, half of which went to the East African Children's Playground Scheme. We hosted a festive Christmas Coffee & Mince Pie morning in December, with Mary McFarlane playing the keyboard, raising £220.50 for Church Funds. Our winter season ended with a short Carol Service of carols, readings and prayers.

Thank you to all who support our meetings and help to make an enjoyable afternoon for all who attend. We would love to see more ladies at our afternoon sessions.

Pat Bogue

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship only met on two occasions in 2017. The year was quite busy with the coming of our new Minister.

We had a tasty meal at 'The Village' on the Barbican in March with 15 of us in a great time of fellowship. In June we held the Open Putting Competition at Wrangaton Golf Club, an annual event to which Ladies are invited. This year the honours went to Ian Criddle in a nail biting final which was won by one point! The event was followed by a tasty roast meal. We did try to arrange another visit to the Plymouth Croquet Club but due to unexpected inclement weather the visit was abandoned.

In September a few of us joined the TALC ladies group when they visited the Adrenalin Quarry near Liskeard. It was a good day out and all enjoyed lunch while watching a film being made.

We were sad to lose one of our members in September when Bill Elliott moved to Exmouth to live. Bill has been the organiser of the Open Putting Competition since the Fellowship started. He will be greatly missed, as will his humour! Many thanks Bill (and Sheila) for all your input and company over the years. We pray you will find happiness in your new home and it is good to know you are sharing your faith – and humour - with Glenorchy URC.

John Pasmore

MINCE PIES AND COFFEE

The splendid Candle-lit service held on Sunday 24th of December was followed, as always, by mince pies, coffee and tea served in the Large Hall. Many thanks to everyone who donated mince pies. Libby and Richard Allman were unable to help as they were fully occupied with grandparent duties. However, the Godsell Family very kindly stepped into the breach and so normal service was maintained. The Grosches were extremely grateful for their help as it meant we all got home before Santa!

The number of people who stayed after the service was fewer than in previous years due to the fact that it was Christmas Eve. Although this won't occur very often, perhaps the date could be taken into consideration in future years.

As there were mince pies left over we took them to The Port O' Call cafe on West Hoe as they were opening to provide a free lunch for the lonely and the homeless on Boxing Day.

Lindsay Grosch

MINISTERIAL LIAISON

Fortunately since Henriette has been with us this job has really diminished! On the occasions when Henriette is away Judy Beaumont will make arrangements for someone to fill in, and I contact them as appropriate.

David Woolley

MP3 PLAYERS

As part of the service post production team I have the joy of taking the Sunday service recording home, and using a program called Audacity (Audio City?) and my BBC peak programme meter, I chop it up into the programme segments as per the order of service (or hopefully as the service actually happened!) I can also take out any mistakes or fluff's and generally tighten things up, if there is one thing the "radio" listener doesn't want, its "dead air" or silence for too long. We can also refine the sound levels as there is a small variation in the volume between readings, hymn's etc. This usually results in 12 to 16 or maybe more segments or clip files which are uploaded to a server so that John Pasmore can download them and transfer them to the website playlist. Then I take any returned players, wipe the old files and set up 2 or 3 with the new files and charge them for our members who cannot get regularly into church for the weekly service, or might like to review the service in the quiet of their home, if they have hearing difficulties.

Many thanks to the brilliant sound mixers and our volunteer visitors who deliver and collect the players, and thanks to Janette for suggesting an "in" and "out" tray - I will try to use the right one!

If you have an hour to spare on a Sunday evening I would be very happy show you how it is done.

John Crosswaite

MUSIC MINISTRY

The choir consists of ten regular members; three Sopranos, three Altos, two Tenors and two Basses. For the Carol service we were lucky to have seven extra singers, who made a significant difference to the sound of the choir.

You will have noticed that the Choir have been sat in various positions around the church over the last year, to try and get the best compromise between the sound of the choir, and visibility to myself and Henriette.

This year has seen the introduction of new 'Mission Praise' hymn books. We are gradually using these more, as they offer far more flexibility than the previous Rejoice and Sing books. Combined with the imminent new screens and sound system, these will make life much easier for the choir and congregation. There will also be far more opportunities for the band to play at services too.

We are trying to learn new hymns; sometimes this has been a success and sometimes not. It is very useful if members of the congregation let me know if they like or dislike a new hymn, as we only want music that everyone will enjoy. There are some excellent new hymns in our books, but equally some terrible, that we shall avoid! Combined with all the traditional hymns and tunes that everyone loves, I hope that we can push the music gradually forward so that all people from within as well as outside the church can enjoy it.

Looking forward, I hope to have more music within Trinity, beyond just Sunday services. I hope to hold some recitals in 2018, as well as a 'big sing' event where we, along with friends from other churches can sing hymns and learn new songs together.

If anybody wishes to sing in the choir, or plays an instrument, please let me know. We are always looking for new members!

David Stevens
Director of Music

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral care of our church members during 2017 was carried out by myself and all the Elders and at each monthly Elders meeting details of this work was discussed confidentially and prayed about.

The work includes visiting our members at home, in hospital, chatting at coffee time and by getting into communication with the extended family if we are dealing with a bereavement situation or a severe illness problem. If visiting is not appropriate we telephone or write to different people who need help.

Visits to members are very beneficial in two ways those concerned express their needs and by carefully listening we learn how we can assist with their particular problems.

In July our Minister Henriette joined us and we are grateful for her suggestions, advice, prayers and support for all our members and their families. On the first Wednesday of each month we have a midweek communion for the elderly and the housebound, who come to the church for this, another way of showing pastoral care. Henriette takes this service.

So the work continues and we are guided by God's love. Many thanks to Henriette, the elders and many members of the congregation who help me a lot.

Bernadette Massey

PLYMSTOCK HOUSE GROUP

We started the year using a discussion DVD created by Jeff Lucas. Sadly, due to some of our members not wishing to attend after the summer break we have not met since July.

While we meet in our Lord's name we know He is with us, but it does require more than four of us at each meeting to make a meaningful discussion.

If any would wish to join our House Group who met before on a Thursday evening at our home we would be delighted to restart. Perhaps at a different time or day!

John Pasmore

PRAYER LIST

There have been many requests for prayers during 2017 from church members and from people in the community. It is good to think that this list gives everyone comfort when dealing with illness or other family problems.

In our church we have the private list and the one which appears in Tidings our monthly magazine. We also have a list which I prepare each week that is placed by the duty elder in our prayer box and handed to our Minister during our Sunday church service. Prayer is such an amazing and inspiring tool and needed by all of us as we struggle with spiritual, mental and physical problems, reminding us that God is there for us every day of our lives.

Prayers can be written by you and placed in the prayer box which is in the vestibule. The duty elder will shred these at a given time. If anyone would like to be a prayer partner with me please let me know. It is very rewarding to be informed that the prayers have helped people in particular ways so the communication flows backwards and forwards. Thanks to everyone who assists with this work.

Bernadette Massey

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

We continue to actively promote our church community and our weekly services in the following ways.

Our church website which can be seen at <http://trinityurcplymouth.org.uk/>

Our monthly Trinity Tidings newsletter

Maintaining a Twitter account and a Facebook page (with increased numbers of friends and followers)

Up to date external notice boards and smart reusable banners to advertise coffee mornings and table top sales

Colour posters for church members to display in the community (i.e. libraries and newsagents). Thank you to all those who regularly take these for display as we know this really does make a difference

Using the free advertising available in the local media (Plymouth Herald, the Plymouth Magazine and Radio Devon)

This year the Plymouth Herald also published a feature welcoming Rev Henriette Wentink to Plymouth as she took up her appointment with us.

Please speak to me on a Sunday morning if you have any questions or suggestions about our marketing strategies or our on-line presence. Thank you.

Sarah Nicholson

PULPIT SUPPLY

One of the many blessings that go along with the arrival of Henriette is that my job of filling the pulpit every Sunday is much easier, because now I do it when she is away for any reason.

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone that has helped me make this job easier, they include the long list of visiting preachers that I have invited (badgered) to take our services each week and the wonderful members of our own congregation who have led our

worship and this gave us an opportunity to explore our own resources to a great degree with wonderful results. I have to thank, Ian Criddle, John Pasmore, Mary MacFarlane, David Woolley and Jill Stidson. I do hope I haven't left anyone out; please forgive me if I have.

Judy Beaumont

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

The class meets on Monday evenings in the large hall from 7.30 -10pm under the instruction of Valerie Harman. There has been an increase in our membership in the past year and numbers remain fairly consistent. New dancers are always welcomed by the more experienced members of the class.

We are making an effort to advertise the class more widely and on a regular basis in the local newspaper, on the web for Scottish Country Dancing and in the local 'Shopper' magazines which are distributed throughout the area.

We are grateful to our new treasurer, Julia Tindall-Jones, who has taken over from Alex McLean who sadly died in 2016. We give a donation to the church on a regular basis throughout the year. Flowers are provided for the church on the celebration of St Andrew's Day.

Valerie Harman

SUNDAY HOUSE GROUP

During the past year the group met mainly at 5 Lockington Avenue, since October 2017 I moved to 74, Consort Close and that is our present venue.

We have seven regular members and we use the United Reformed Prayer handbook, which provides for us bible readings and prayers. We also use a DVD called Singing in the Rain with commentary by Jeff Lucas. This promotes interesting discussion which we feel strengthens our faith and we are grateful for the opportunity of spending time with each other. When our members have a birthday we celebrate by lunching together. If anyone would like to join our group you would be made very welcome.

Connie Hanley

SUNDAY STROLLERS

On New Year's Day Fourteen of us met for lunch at the Burrator Inn, Dousland. An excellent choice of menu was served efficiently by the cheerful staff. The sun shone out of a clear blue sky and the air was sharp and clear giving wonderful views over the reservoir and Sheepstor. At 1.30pm we assembled at the Quarry car park and climbed up to the old Princetown railway which closed in the 1960's. Some of us remembered travelling on the train all those years ago. We walked along the railway alongside the Devonport Leat and up to Lowery Cross. We then followed the path over Yennadon Down to the boundary marker and down again to the car park. We could see for miles across Devon towards Cornwall and far away to Plymouth Sound and the sea.

Back at Fiona's house in Yelverton, David Woolley and Irene Martin had the kettle on for tea and mince pies.

We met on Easter Monday for a picnic lunch at the Arboretum car park, Burrator, followed by a walk to discover the ruins of West and East Deancombe farms and Middleworth farm. These farms were forced to be vacated when the valley was flooded for the Reservoir. A ring of boundary stones dated 1917 can be seen round the catchment area of the Reservoir. It was fitting that we were doing a bit of history research 100 years later. Tea and sticky buns at my house after the walk!

An Autumn Glories walk was arranged in September but had to be cancelled due to clashing with other church events.

Fiona Adams

SUNSHINE BAGS

2017 was the 30th year that we collected 'pennies' for Cancer Research UK. We sent a cheque for £217 and this made a total of £4952 sent in all. Thank you so much to all of you who have supported this and, as always, if you would like to join us please speak to me.

Ruth Criddle

SOUTH WEST SYNOD

The South Western Synod meets twice a year at Bridgewater. All ministers are members and each Church is allowed one voting member although anybody can attend. It is a time when we get to know what is going on in other parts of the South West, meet up with others from UR Churches and hear what the URC is doing nationally.

Jill Stidson

TABLE TOP SALES

We held 6 sales in the year and raised just a bit more than the previous year. It is interesting to compare each month with the last and see where we get the most profit. It follows that the more people we get through the door the better our sales. However the Herald does not always advertise for us even though the information has been sent to them. Friday lunch numbers are a bit down. I am not sure if folk realise they can come to the lunch even if they do not stay to help set out the stall but this is not quite the same as the Lunch club as we have a set meal and eat altogether at 12.30pm.

In March we had a lot of donations from members to put on the Church stall as can be seen from the figures this does make a difference. All gifts are colour coded and we display them for three sales. If they still have not sold they get taken to a charity shop.

The book case full of books in the hall is proving popular as people coming to groups who meet on our premises often take a book and drop the 50p into an envelope in the office.

2017	DOOR	FOOD	TABLES	CHURCH STALL	FRIDAY LUNCH	TOTAL
21-Jan	21.60	102.20	81.00	139.85	79.60	424.25
18-Mar	20.18	110.15	104.50	187.70	61.55	484.08
17-Jun	17.55	93.96	115.50	142.25	77.80	447.06
22-Sep	7.30	91.60	110.00	129.65	50.80	389.35
21-Oct	<u>16.20</u>	<u>94.75</u>	<u>83.00</u>	<u>103.57</u>	<u>31.50</u>	<u>329.02</u>
	82.83	492.66	494.00	703.02	301.25	2073.76

None of this would continue without the help of so many people both on the Church stall and the stalwarts in the back hall who provide wonderful cakes and refreshments. Many thanks to you all.

Jill Stidson and Fiona Adams

TALC

We have done a little better this year with TALC and had three outings, hopefully we will manage more next year.

TALC has been dormant for a while, but what a way to start this year – a putting competition with the Gents which is an annual event, arranged by Bill and Sheila Elliott. A wonderful evening was had with a lot of friendly banter and competition. The cup this year went to Ian Criddle.

The next trip was to Adrenalin Quarry – a well named place. It was a God given day, the weather was beautiful so the day was off to a good start. Four of us went down the zip wire –

myself, Penny, Jill and Denise, we all loved it so much we all had another trip, but unfortunately no-one but myself fancied the Big Swing and as I had already been on it on previous occasions I didn't bother. We had a lovely picnic lunch and then three of us went for a swim, myself, Jill and Lizzie who came with John and Marilyn. It was supposed to be slightly warmer than sea temperature and I am sure it was – let us just say it was very refreshing. But it was worth it to come out and to dry off in the sun. It was a truly wonderful day.

Judy Beaumont

THURSDAY HOUSE GROUP

There are 9 of us who meet on the third Thursday of each month to study a passage from the Bible. We always have good discussions and plenty of laughter as we try to discover what the passage is trying to teach us. We use the Lifebuilder series of studies and have just started a new topic of David, Shepherd boy, Giant slayer and then King. After discussion time we have a cuppa and biscuits. Anyone is welcome to come and join us.

Jill Stidson

TREASURY

In 2017 our giving was down by £239 so I am asking you if you haven't increased your offertory for a while can you consider increasing your gift. We have had visitors using the 'Yellow Gift aid envelopes'. Please see me if you would like to Gift Aid your offertory, this is a very easy way to help increase the Church income. Our tax refund from HMRC for 2016 was £7231, which we have now received. Thank you to all that give their collection through the Gift Aid scheme.

Social and fund raising events continue to be popular and therefore, successful. Please continue to support and tell others of the good times we have. We thank everyone who organise and support these events.

The facilities are ever popular with lettings for a wide range of activities, and the income decreased by £905 which was our first full year without the income from Teddies. Thank you to Janette Duncalf and David Woolley.

I would like to thank Ruth Criddle for overseeing the counting on Sunday mornings when I am not in Church; she also checks the Bank statements each month. Thank you to all that count the offertory each Sunday morning.

Thank you all for your support.

Valerie Bott

TRINITY TIDINGS

I breath a sigh of relief when I can finally start to print off each months edition. Computers are wonderful things but they do seem to have a mind of their own. I am still having to SOS John Pasmore when I cannot see why the computer has done something I am sure I did not ask it to do. John can access my computer from his own and soon manages to sort it out. (I quite like it when it takes him a while to see what has gone wrong)

Several of you provide me with information each month which is helpful. Parish Pump continues to give us the front cover and many of the articles and smile lines.

Thanks for the positive comments you give me and also for mistakes pointed out.

My thanks to Bernie for proof reading and to Paul Grosch and family for printing and collating.

Chris Pasmore still deals with the donations received and she sends off copies to past members and friends.

Jill Stidson

TYPISTS

The notices and order of services for the Sunday morning service are typed by a team of very willing workers. If members of the congregation have a notice they want to be put in, it would be very helpful to email it direct to the office at office@trinityurc1.plus.com, or it can be put through the office letter box before Friday lunch time.

Pat very kindly draws up the rota of the typists. This usually isn't a problem especially if items are forwarded to the office. The rota is printed in the Tidings, but please be aware that this could change. If people are away we do swap around sometimes.

If anyone would like to join us please talk to one of us – Carol, Janette, Pat, Valerie or myself. This isn't a difficult task at all, and the more of us the easier it is!

Judy Beaumont

TRINITY WEB SITE

The Trinity website which can be found at www.trinityurcplymouth.org.uk carries a lot of information about Trinity including a recording of Sunday morning services, Trinity Tidings,

Hall Bookings, coming events and other useful information about our church, our worship style and community which hopefully someone interested in what we do will find useful. This year we have added a link to the URC Daily Devotions.

There is also a link to the EasyFunding website to earn valuable income for our Big Build fund at no cost to yourself.

The website is a lens through which others can find out about our church and possibly find their way to our Lord.

John Pasmore

CHURCH SECRETARY & ELDERS

We began the year, as previously, without a Minister but with a renewed hope in our search. The Junior Church leaders let us know that, due to a falling roll and uncertainty about attendance, they could not continue on a weekly basis. However, they expressed their willingness to help out on an ad hoc basis. No other regular helpers came forward and it was, therefore, decided that we discontinue the Junior Church and provide an area in the church for children instead.

Early in the year, Rev. Dick Gray (SW Synod Treasurer) took over the role of Interim Moderator, guiding Trinity through the process of Vacancy, from Rev Colin Phipps (Minister of Sherwell URC). SW Synod had advised us to update our profile and prepare a role description for any prospective candidate who might be interested in our pastorate. We were subsequently informed that someone had expressed an interest in the vacancy. After meeting with the vacancy committee, then the Elders and subsequently preaching with a view, the Rev Henriette Wentink accepted our invitation (as agreed by Church Meeting) to become our new Minister.

The major event of the year was, undoubtedly, Henriette's induction as our Minister, on Saturday 15th July. It was a joyful occasion, attended by representatives from Synod, special guests and some of those who had preached during the vacancy. Members of our congregation took part and Henriette, in her address, declared that she had 'fallen in love' with Trinity. Much work took place behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to Henriette's induction, by the vacancy group and Elders in particular. Thanks to anyone who helped in any way, to make the event a successful one.

During the year, we recorded the deaths of five members – Joan Richardson, Joyce Cummings, Margaret Austin, Rodney Hutchings and Lavinia Bailey. Also, three adherents – Forbes Watson, June Mays and Gwyneth Boyce. Church membership currently stands at 127.

Average attendance at morning communion was 62 and evenings 13. There were 27 at the Tenebrae Communion and 20 at the Christmas Eve Midnight service. Mid-week communions averaged 7 and the total for Home communions during the year was 7.

The Nativity Service, organised by Henriette and the young people, was arranged so that the whole congregation was encouraged to participate. Henriette's services have retained a traditional core but with a different slant, the congregation being more involved in worship rather than passive recipients of the message each week.

During the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, Henriette sculpted an arrangement of poppies, based on the 'Poppy Wave' installation on the Hoe. The church was open for reflection and people were invited to add their own poppies to the display. Services continue to be recorded and put on the website and MP3 players for those who cannot attend services. Thanks to all those involved.

The Eldership has been reduced in numbers by the resignation of John Hawkins and Fiona Adams plus Matthew Pun has stepped out for a year. This brings our numbers down to ten.

The usual pattern of Church Meetings and Elders Meetings have continued, with Henriette in the chair. The first few months have, inevitably, been a settling-in period as she gets used to us and we get used to her but we are moving forward together on all fronts. Worship has continued, for the most part, in the traditional format with Henriette introducing some newer hymns and songs. One feature has been the re-introduction, after many years, of a Watchnight Service on New Year's Eve.

The Foundation stone of our church was laid on 6th May 1937 and is protected by a Perspex panel in the small hall. The church was officially opened on 17th March 1938, so 2018 sees our 80th anniversary on this site. A cause for celebration!

This would seem a suitable point to end this year's report, except to echo words quoted from last year (Hymn 573). "God is working his purpose out." Hallelujah!

Ian Criddle
(Church Secretary)

REPORT END

E&OE.

