

**The Parish of Swansea St Gabriel
Deanery of Afon Tawe (Swansea)
Diocese of Swansea a Brecon**



**Annual Report and Accounts
of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2017**

Parish Priest

Fr D Mark Griffiths
St Gabriel's Vicarage
3 Trafalgar Place
Brynmill, Swansea
SA2 0BU

Honorary Assistant Priests

Fr Brian Jones
125 Homegower House
St Helen's Road, Swansea
SA1 4DN

Fr Peter Jackson
9 St Peter's Avenue
Cockett, Swansea
SA2 5BX

Fr George Bennett
20 Dol y Coed
Dunvant, Swansea
SA2 7UG

Churchwardens

Mr Keith Rogers
15 Church Gardens
Cockett, Swansea
SA2 0FE

Mr Christopher Jones
30 Hendrefoilan Road
Tycoch, Swansea
SA2 9LT

Secretary

Mr Paul Reynolds
87 Gabalfa Road
Sketty, Swansea
SA2 8ND

Treasurer

Mrs Suzanne Jones
30 Hendrefoilan Road
Tycoch, Swansea
SA2 9LT

Parish Web Site

<http://www.st-gabriels-swanea.co.uk>

Letter of commendation from the Parish Priest

Dear friends,

On 15 January 2017 Archbishop John inaugurated the Swansea Ministry Area. This is the first stage of implementing the change from parishes to ministry areas, so that eventually the Ministry Area will be, for us in the Church in Wales, the local unit of ministry, mission and pastoral care.

There is still much to discuss and reflect on, as we seek to work out the practicalities of this new way of organising the life of the Church at the local level.

Developments in the Church's ministry will continue to be instrumental: on the one hand the growth of lay ministries – readers, pastoral assistants, eucharistic ministers and lay worship leaders – and on the other hand, the ministry of ordained priests and deacons and the increase in non-stipendiary priests, upon whom we will have an ever greater reliance.

Eventually Ministry Teams, made up of both lay and ordained ministers, will serve the Ministry Area helping to foster a more collaborative way of ministry and hopefully one that is more supportive of those involved.

Together, as the Body of Christ, we are called to serve alongside each other organising our common life in a way that best facilitates the work that Our Lord himself has given us to do.

As we review and give thanks in our Annual Parish Report for the ministry and mission of the Church here at St Gabriel's, so we also commit ourselves anew to Christ, the Lord of the Church. He is always faithful and gives us what is necessary to accomplish the task he has given us.

Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever
(Hebrews 13:8)

Yours in Christ,
Father Mark

Diocesan Vision

A family rooted in Christ,
committed to transforming lives by:
Gathering as God's people;
Growing more like Jesus;
Going out in the power of the Spirit.

Our Vision prayer

Father, we hold before you
our family in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon
and we open our hearts and minds to your Spirit;
Bless us as we gather in your name;
Guide us as we grow into the likeness of your Son;
Lead us by your spirit to go out and make disciples of others.
God of our journeying, be our way and our truth and our life,
our beginning and our end.
We pray through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mission statement

The Parish of St Gabriel's strives to bear witness to Catholic faith and practice.

As a parish of the Church in Wales, we seek to be a faithful and worshipping community of Christian people promoting our belief in Christ by word and deed.

Pastoral and spiritual care is extended to all, particularly those in special need. A welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to worship with the Christian community here or who wishes to enjoy the fellowship and friendship we offer through our organisations and social events.

We are here to serve the local community of which we are a part. Such service is part of our witness to the love of Christ and is fundamental to our life as members of His Church.

Our purpose then is to celebrate our faith in Christ and our following of Him by daily prayer and worship, by serving and caring for others and by promoting Christian concerns for peace, justice and unity both in our society and in the wider world.

Liturgy and worship

St Gabriel's continues to celebrate the richness of Catholic liturgy.

The Mass is the centre of our liturgical life: Solemn Mass is celebrated each Sunday at 9.30 a.m. and Mass is also offered every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday as well as on important Holy Days. The average number of Sunday communicants is 51, and average monthly communicants are 72. In addition 10 parishioners receive the Blessed Sacrament at home each month.

Evening Prayer and Benediction is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month at 6.00 p.m. and the Stations of the Cross are followed every Sunday during Lent at 6.00 p.m.

A Guild of Prayer meets each month to pray for the sick and all in special need. The liturgy alternates between the Rosary and the Ministry of Healing with laying on of hands and anointing.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is celebrated before Christmas and Easter and at any time by appointment.

The Office of Morning and Evening Prayer are said daily in church.

Eucharistic Ministers

The following have the bishop's licence to exercise this ministry:

James Arthurs, Paul Reynolds, David Tolley, Ingrid Trueman and Hilary Williams.

Ingrid, Hilary and Paul are also licensed as pastoral assistants and take the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and housebound both in the parish and in Singleton Hospital.

We are grateful to all our Eucharistic assistants for the ministry they fulfil.

Report on accounts, year ending 31 December 2017

The accounts are presented on a receipt and payment cash basis and have been examined as requested by the parish-appointed examiner whose certification is included with the accounts.

Balances 31/12/17	Current account	£15,038.12
	Deposit account	<u>£32,345.71</u>
	TOTAL	<u>£47,383.83</u>
Cashable Assets	Proceeds St Augustine's	£2,353.75
	Col. Morgan legacy	£6,365.00
	Clergy House (estimate value)	<u>£130,000.00</u>
	TOTAL	<u>£138,718.75</u>
Liabilities	Outstanding Parish Share (in dispute)	£8,000.00

Total receipts for the year £58,868.00; total expenditure £67,234.00, a deficit of £8,366.00.

An extraordinary payment of £15,652.26 was paid to the diocese towards the arrears of our parish share.

Hopefully in 2018 our deficit will be a surplus; if the extraordinary payment was taken out of the equation we would have had a surplus of £7,286.00.

The parish share for 2017 has been paid in full – £33,430.00 (net of discount for prompt payment). Planned Giving increased by £3,375.00, loose collections by £320.00.

Cost of repairs during the year: expenditure on the south roof of £1,232.84. Let us hope 2018 will be just as minimal, but we do not know what is around the corner.

£3,661.00 was raised for charitable causes at home and overseas which was distributed as follows.

Wi'am Bethlehem Christmas Smiles	£1,141.18
Bishop John Lent Appeal	£385.82
Cuzco Kid's Street Project	£415.82
Lesotho Appeal	£300.00
Christian Aid	£286.00
East African Appeal	£480.00
Faith in Families	£448.08

The Clergy house has not been sold and it has been left unoccupied since March 2017. The loss of rent amounts to £7,211.00 and rates have been paid since October 2017 of £110 per month. We have been in touch with the Diocesan Parsonage Board stating we would appreciate a more urgent approach to the sale of our property.

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your dedication in keeping our heads above water, and your generosity in our fund-raising and appeals.

Suzanne Jones
PCC Treasurer

Parish of St Gabriel's, Swansea
Parochial Church Council
Financial Statements year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	General Funds £	2017 Total £	2016 Total £
Receipts and payments account for the year				
Receipts				
Voluntary Income				
		Planned giving	30,431	27,056
		Loose collections	7,528	7,208
		Donations	4,663	6,269
		For mission	3,661	3,152
		Tax refunds	7,192	5,482
Generated Income		Money raising	4,009	3,178
		Fees	50	881
Investment Income			1,334	8,765
Other incoming resources – realisation of parish investment	2c	-	-	19,425
Total Receipts		<u>58,868</u>	<u>58,868</u>	<u>81,416</u>
 Payments				
Support of Ministry				
		Parish share – Arrears	15,652	-
		Parish share – Current year	33,430	32,000
		Parochial expenses of Clerics	752	812
		Other Support for Ministry	-	24
Parish Activities		Maintenance of services	1,678	1,354
		General Parish expenses	1,249	1,296
Church Property		Maintenance of Churches	7,277	9,356
		Maintenance of other property	1,977	1,551
Grants and Financial Support		Parish Mission	1,051	756
		Home/World Mission	3,457	2,548
Cost of money raising		<u>711</u>	<u>711</u>	<u>110</u>
Total Payments		<u>67,234</u>	<u>67,234</u>	<u>49,807</u>
Net Receipts for the year		(8,366)	(8,366)	31,609
Bank and oncall deposit balances at beginning of year		<u>55,750</u>	<u>55,750</u>	<u>24,141</u>
Bank and oncall deposit balances at end of year		<u>47,384</u>	<u>47,384</u>	<u>55,750</u>

Parish of St Gabriel's, Swansea
Parochial Church Council
Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	General Funds	2017 Total	2016 Total
		£	£	£
Cash Funds				
Bank balance		15,038	15,038	21,463
Oncall deposit balances		<u>32,346</u>	<u>32,346</u>	<u>34,287</u>
		<u>47,384</u>	<u>47,384</u>	<u>55,750</u>
Other Monetary Assets				
Gift Aid receivable		4,000	4,000	4,000
Other – RBC/W capital sum for sale of St Augustine site		<u>2,354</u>	<u>2,354</u>	<u>2,000</u>
		<u>6,354</u>	<u>6,354</u>	<u>6,000</u>
Assets retained for Church use				
Investment - held by Rep Body (Col Morgan legacy)	2b	6,365	6,365	5,904
Clergy House held on trust by Rep Body	2a	<u>130,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>	<u>130,000</u>
		<u>136,365</u>	<u>136,365</u>	<u>135,904</u>
Liabilities				
Creditors – Parish share	3	<u>8,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>23,652</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on

.....
Date

and signed on its behalf by

.....
Name

SUZANNE E. JONES

Signature

S. E. Jones

Parish of St Gabriel's, Swansea
Parochial Church Council
Notes to the Financial Statements
Year ended 31 December 2017

1. Accounting Policies

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) section IA, Smaller Entities and the Charities Act 2011.

- **Freehold Property.**
The Church buildings other than the Clergy House are vested in the Representative Body of the Church in Wales, consequently, none of this property forms part of the assets of the Parish.
- **Fund Accounting.**
Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the church in furtherance of its charitable objectives.

Restricted funds represent funds which may be expended only on those restricted objects Provided within the terms of the fund. Any funds remaining unspent at the end of the year are carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Designated funds represent monies made available by the PCC out of General Funds for the specific purpose designated when the fund is established.
- **Incoming Resources.**
Are all accounted for gross.

Planned giving collections and donations are recognised when received.

Grants and legacies are accounted for when the PCC is legally entitled to the amounts due. All other income is generally recognised when it is received.
- **Resources Expended.**
Parish share is paid regularly and is included in expenditure when paid.

All other expenditure is generally recognised when it is paid.

As most of the management activity of the church is carried out by volunteers, this intangible cost is not included in the financial statements as this voluntary contribution to the use of the church is Incalculable.

2. Assets retained for church purposes

- (a) The Clergy House is held on trust by the Representative Body for the benefit of the parish. Its market value at the year end is estimated at £130,000 (2016 £130,000).
- (b) An investment held by the Representative Body from a legacy from the late Colonel Morgan had a market value of £6,365 at the year end (2016 (5,904)).

3. Arrears of Parish Share

Arrears of £8,000 were outstanding at 31 December 2017 (2016 £23,652).

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
PARISH OF ST GABRIEL'S, SWANSEA**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner:

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The PCC considers that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(SXb) of the 2011 Ad); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report:

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement:

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that In any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met: or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner:

Signature:

Date

Name: Alan Martin Evans

Qualification: FCA

Name of firm: Rimmer & May Chartered Accountants

Address: 19 Murray Street
Llanelli
Carmarthenshire
SA15 1AQ

Parish of St. Gabriel's Swansea
Schedule of Specific Matters arising
Year end 31 December 2017

During the preparation of the financial statements for the above period you confirmed the following specific matters:-

1. No church fees were received during the year from weddings or funerals (2016 £766).
2. Gross rental income from the clergy house amounted to £1,129 (2016 £8,340).
3. You understand that the sale of the clergy house was being finalised in Spring 2018.

I confirm the above specific information supplied to Messrs Rimmer & May

S. E. Jones
Mrs Suzanne Jones (PCC Treasurer)

30th March 2018.
Date

Report of the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council met five times during the year 2017. Of these the meeting on 23 April was the customary brief meeting held after the Annual Vestry Meeting in order to elect PCC officers. At this meeting Mr Paul Reynolds was elected as Secretary to the PCC and to the Annual Vestry and Mrs Suzanne Jones was elected Treasurer.

During the course of the year the former vicarage and clergy house were put on the market with vacant possession by the Diocesan Parsonage Board. A fence was erected to mark the boundary between the church and the property that was to be sold. Fr Mark moved into the new vicarage in Trafalgar Place during June. An offer by the sitting tenant in the clergy house to buy both properties at the full initial asking price was rejected by the Parsonage Board. Subsequently an offer was received by another party who were also willing to pay the full price. This was accepted but unfortunately the party concerned later found that they were unable to proceed with the purchase. At the end of the year the old vicarage and clergy house were still on the market and attempts were being made by the estate agents to identify another purchaser. Meanwhile the property was starting to show signs of deterioration and the parish was obliged to pay Council Tax.

Council received regular reports from Jim Page on his discussions with the Diocesan Director of Ordinands and affirmed their support for him as he explored his vocation to the priesthood. He had hoped to attend a provincial selection panel in September 2017 but this had not proved possible.

Council was kept informed of the gradual development of the Swansea Central Ministry Area (subsequently renamed Swansea Ministry Area) and of the steps that were being taken to promote shared activity and an Area consciousness.

Council was informed at the January meeting that the Bishop had given Fr Mark pastoral oversight of the parish of St Barnabas. Among other things, this would require him to celebrate Mass there one Sunday in four, with a rota of other priests to cover the remaining weeks.

Paul Reynolds
PCC Secretary

Churchwardens' report

We wish to start by offering our thanks to all who throughout the year have provided fund-raising events and parish lunches; these are detailed in the various reports. They not only provide essential funding but also provide fellowship between our congregation and our community as a whole.

This is the first year for quite a while that we have not had major work carried out on the fabric of the church. There was a problem with ingress of water to the south aisle, but this has been repaired. There is still the occasional drip to the high level roof to the nave and over the chancel steps but this is overcome with suitable positioning of a bucket!

During the year we had a quinquennial inspection of electrical installations and other than a few minor items all was found to be satisfactory.

During the year our Ministry Area has been formed with St Gabriel's being placed within the Swansea Central Ministry Area. Throughout the year there have been meetings of the churchwardens and clergy of the various parishes within the area discussing ways the parishes can be brought together not only spiritually but socially. At the end of, the year changes were made to the area composition and we have now been designated as the Swansea Ministry Area. It means we are the largest Ministry Area in the diocese covering a population of 68,000 people.

During the year the Vicarage and Clergy House were placed on the market as one freehold property. We had hoped that a sale would have been completed by the end of the year, but unfortunately to date this has not been achieved. Let us hope early 2018 will give us better news.

Once again this year the attendance at our service of Carols by Candlelight and Benediction has increased in numbers. It appeared that many were in family groups with children. It is pleasing to see that there are people who are not regular worshippers at St Gabriel's but who join us at this service to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

We thank our congregation for their continued financial generosity during the year which not only enables us to pay our Ministry Share but also maintains the upkeep of St Gabriel's. We trust this will continue during 2018 and with this in mind wish to inform you that St Gabriel's Gift Day will be on Corpus Christi, Sunday 3 June. Of course our thanks are not only for finance but also to all our sidespeople and all members of the church for their support and assistance over the past twelve months, whether it be through flower arranging, church cleaning or maintenance. Without this

freely given support and friendship St Gabriel's would not be the welcoming worshipping community it is. Many thanks and God bless you all.

Final thanks must be given for the support given to us and for the dedicated ministry of our parish priest, Fr Mark, together with the faithful assistance of our honorary priests, Fr Brian, Fr Peter and Fr George, who all provide us with spiritual guidance and friendship. Our clergy are in turn supported by our sacristan, MCs (masters of ceremonies), servers of the sanctuary and our organist Stephen and the choir, all contributing to provide the fine liturgy we associate with St Gabriel's

Keith Rogers, Vicar's Warden
Christopher Jones, People's Warden

Fund-raising report

Our fund-raising year commenced with an evening at the vicarage hosted by Fr Mark on Tuesday 21 February. The evening was to bid farewell to the vicarage prior to the relocation of Fr Mark to Trafalgar Place. It was reminiscent of the old-fashioned house parties where people mingled in various rooms enjoying each other's company and conversation. The food for the evening was on a 'bring and share' basis and liquid refreshment was provided by Fr Mark. Needless to say, the evening was a great success.

On Saturday 10 June the Summer Fête was held in church. The hard work continues year after year of the dedicated stall-holders who make the fête a success. Of course we rely on the support of all who attend the event and part with their money.

St Gabriel's church was represented at the Fun Day in Brynmill Park on Saturday 24 June. As in the past, we had a stall selling sandwiches and cakes. We were fortunate to have a band of helpers who provided cakes and were also at the church kitchen prior to the event to make sandwiches. Unfortunately our sales were not as good as previous years. That may be a reflection on the fact that the Uplands market was held on the same day and a lot of people turned up at the Fun Day after lunch.

On Wednesday 11 October, in church was the annual quiz night. Our quizmaster, Peter Lloyd, presented all with questions on a variety of topics. Numbers in attendance were a little disappointing, but this was outweighed by the enthusiasm and enjoyment of all who attended.

The Christmas Fair was held on Saturday 11 November in the Scout and Guide Headquarters, Bryn Road. This continues to be a popular fair as we have visitors from outside the congregation of the church. The fair is always of a high standard, this being a reflection of the hard work put in by all the stall holders. Let us hope that this event will continue to attract visitors to give financial support to the parish and moral support to all those who work so hard.

On Thursday 16 November there was a coach trip to Gloucester Christmas Market. After having had to cancel the trip to Bath last year due to lack of numbers it was gratifying to see a nearly full coach leave from outside the church. It was unfortunate that several people who intended coming were prevented due to illness. This was our first visit to Gloucester and it was not disappointing. The organization at the drop-off point was excellent with easy access to the shopping mall and the Christmas Market. With the comments of those who were on the trip there could be a re-visit in 2018.

An Evening at Rowberry's Fashions was organised by Jackie Brown on Wednesday 6 December. All who attended enjoyed a glass of wine and a mince pie and were able to select their 'winter/spring collection' in a convivial atmosphere.

I write this report on behalf of my fellow committee members, Katheryn Lloyd, Dick Phillips, Allen Grove and Peter Seward, whose support I have relied on. I trust that, Allen Grove, who has undergone surgery during the year, is on the way to a full recovery. Thanks go to all who throughout the year have given their time and expertise in providing us with our programme of events and to all who willingly clear up at the end of each event. Of course without the support of all who attend the various events there would be no income and during 2017 £2,694.00 has been raised. Well done.

Keith Rogers
Chairman

Health and safety report

I am pleased to be able to make this report once again. It seems as if nothing exciting ever happens and we have the same report every year. This is not by accident but by the vigilance of the wardens, PCC and members of the congregation.

Yet again a successful year in that we have had no fires, no accidents have been entered in the accident book, and incidents and suggestions that have been brought to my notice have been dealt with.

All the statutory inspections have been carried out by professional and certified personnel.

I would like to ask all those who use the church to be on the lookout for hazards and anything that is where it should not be and to report the matter to a churchwarden or myself to be made safe.

Norman Whitlock
Health and Safety Officer

Diocesan Conference

The 2017 Diocesan Conference was held at the Cathedral on Saturday 14 October. Archbishop John opened the conference with his address, the first since being elected Archbishop of Wales. He spoke of the need for change and using imagination in times of change and treating challenges as opportunities.

Speakers included Sharon Lee from Housing Justice Cymru, Wendy Coombey from the diocese of Hereford who gave tips on fundraising and Elizabeth Perry from St Mary's, Brecon who spoke about the church's restoration and re-ordering. Delegates affirmed their commitment to Faith in Families as it faced an uncertain future due to withdrawal of funding.

Stephen Dunn

Deanery Conference

The Deanery of Afon Tawe met on three or possibly four occasions during the year. Two of these were to discuss the Parish Share. The first of these was held in St Mary's church in February where the Diocesan Board of Finance brought the 'heavy

mob' to try to persuade the parishes to accept their chosen formula for apportionment of the Parish Share. This fell largely on deaf ears and the deanery members were not enamoured with the proposition put to them.

The second time we met was to discuss the same subject but this time it was held at Llangyfelach church on a rain-soaked night in November. The parishes were again unimpressed with a list of various modules but it was agreed that the fairest outcome would be to agree to a 5% increase across the board on our present Parish Share until such time that the Ministry Areas had bedded in and a realistic formula could be found.

There was another conference which was held in St David's, Morriston on a Sunday afternoon in Lent at a time and place which was unsuitable for our parish to attend as it conflicted with Stations of the Cross held at St Gabriel's.

Chris Jones

St Gabriel's Mothers' Union

At the end of January we had our post-Christmas meal at Olchfa House. On 20 February we took part in the MU Worldwide Wave of Prayer which was hosted by Christchurch. The service had been prepared by Christian women in the Philippines; the theme of the service was 'Am I being unfair to you?'. This brought the Word of God alive in the 170 countries that took part.

For Mothering Sunday we raised £170 to help mothers around the world; we also had simnel cakes kindly baked by Joyce and Suzanne. In April some of us went to the Chrism Mass in Bristol cathedral celebrated by the Bishop of Ebbsfleet. Our yearly cream tea was at the Marriott Hotel in May.

The deanery festival was on 17 July in St Mary's church. The address was given by the Revd Sue Knight. In August we went to see the play *The Lady Killers*. Also in August Chrystal and I went to the Assumption celebration at St Mary's, Cardiff which was followed by fireworks and a barbecue. A quiet hour was held at Llansamlet church in September conducted by Fr Andrew Holmes. In September we also supported St Teilo's, Caereithin which is now combined with the Family Centre.

The MU quiet day was held at Nicholaston House in October and was led by Fr George. His theme was the holy garments of Jesus. Also in October the Credo Cymru Festival of Faith was held at Abergavenny and the celebrant and preacher was the Bishop of Wakefield.

Joy Milligan

Magazine Editor's report

The Magazine has continued to appear on a regular basis. Twelve issues were produced each containing 16 pages of editorial matter, a total of 192 pages for the complete year. The Magazine continues to be printed in the print room in Swansea University and we are indebted to Andrew Treharne for his unfailing helpfulness.

During the year the PCC Treasurer, Suzanne Jones, contacted all the advertisers to confirm that they were willing to continue their support of the Magazine in this way. All agreed to do so and accepted the invoices that were issued. In addition, one further advertiser was recruited. As a result of these actions the Magazine account now shows a surplus over the course of the year.

I continue to be grateful to the clergy and other regular contributors and to all who have supplied me with material. I am always glad of these and would encourage members of the congregation to continue to pass on any suitable items that they might come across.

Paul Reynolds

St Gabriel's Guild of Prayer

The Guild of Prayer continues to meet on the second Monday of the month at 10.00 a.m. in the Lady Chapel to pray for the sick and suffering, and for all people in situations of need. We have the Ministry of Healing and the Holy Rosary on alternate months.

Should you wish any sick or needy person to be remembered in our prayers please pass on your request to Fr Mark or to me.

Hilary Roberts

Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club continued its success in 2017 and held 10 lunches. The total sum raised at these lunches was £2,715 and of that £728 was donated to the three charities supported by St Gabriel's. The sum of £2,200 was given to the church at Gift Day.

The catering team is, as always, very grateful to those people who regularly support us throughout the year and help us to raise the money, at the same time enjoying the fellowship, which is extended to all who join us. Do please continue to come. We are so pleased to see you.

Katheryn Lloyd

Lesotho Friends

We continue to support Lesotho via *Dolen Cymru*. St David's day was celebrated; volunteers decorated the school and pupils were told the story of Bedd Gelert and ran a 4-mile marathon.

Joan Davies

St Gabriel's Flower Guild

Each year our dedicated group of flower arrangers work so hard to keep our church looking so beautiful. The arrangements each week give so much pleasure to us all but for the festivals it is safe to say that all the stops are pulled out and the church looks its very best. However, this could not be achieved without the generous donations of our parishioners. Their financial help is so important if we are to have a suitable display of flowers on these occasions.

Audrey Mackintosh
Joyce Phillips

'Faith in Families'

For a number of years now over 20 boxes, which are part of the diocesan 'Faith in Families' scheme, have been taken by members of our congregation. Last year over £458 was collected through these boxes and given to the diocese as part of our parish

contribution towards this scheme. This was a considerable increase on previous years and those participating in the scheme are to be highly commended for their efforts.

‘Faith in Families’ is a social initiative of the diocese, an integral part of our Christian faith and practice, and uses the money it receives from several sources (including the boxes) in a number of projects throughout the diocese, but mainly in and around Swansea where the greatest need is perceived.

During 2017 we were fearful that the monies received from the Welsh Assembly Government, under the umbrella of their Communities First programme, would cease all together. However, it transpired that they were not cut entirely; instead they were severely reduced. This means that the diocese has had to find considerably more money in order to continue to provide its present services to the community. For example, it would be very wrong to see the extensive up-grade to the facilities provided at St Teilo’s church, in the Portmead area of Swansea, abandoned and the very experienced staff reduced to a minimum.

Last year I asked the question: ‘*Are we really committed to this work?*’ This year I repeat: *If we are, then we must dig much deeper into our own pockets in order to help our diocese continue with this work, work it carries out on our behalf.* As the familiar saying goes ‘every little helps’ but in this instance ‘little’ must mean giving much more generously until we secure the future for our Family Centres.

We can play our part in these exciting projects by continuing to giving generously to the ‘Faith in Families’ scheme through the boxes. If you don’t already have a box then please seriously consider joining the scheme. Let us make every effort to ensure the continuation of this work done in Christ’s name in and by our diocese, for ‘*People matter, whoever, whatever and wherever they are*’.

Boxes are available at any time from myself or please ask one of the Wardens.

Ann Jackson
Boxes Scheme Organiser

Music at St Gabriel’s

We continue to make our small contribution to the wonderful liturgy at St Gabriel’s. Through the loyalty and commitment of the ladies we are able to sing the responsorial psalms as often as possible and I am very grateful to them for their support. We would be delighted if anyone would like to join us on a Sunday or just for the special feasts and occasions. My sincere thanks to Mrs Chrystal Roberts for always being so willing to deputise for me. We continue to much appreciate the encouragement we receive from Father Mark and others.

Stephen Dunn
Organist and Choir Master

Brynmill Primary School and Ysgol Bryn-y-Mor

Classes from both schools regularly visit St Gabriel’s. Several parishioners are involved in the life of the schools, some serving as governors at both schools.

Fr Mark regularly takes assembly at Brynmill Primary School.