

*St Chrysostom's Church
Victoria Park*

Annual Report 2018



Rector's Report

2018 was a year of both consolidation and growth. I am pleased to report that attendance at Church has remained constant, and the numbers of 'occasional offices' of weddings, funerals and baptisms remains at the usual levels. We are a very transient community – people come and go a lot, and so it is particularly worthy to note we retain our numbers. I also wish to comment on the increasing number of people, small but significant, who start worshipping with us who have never before worshipped in a Christian church. We had at least five such people in 2018.

We are very privileged at St Chrysostom's to have such a wide ranging congregation, both in age, outlook, ethnicity and social and economic background. This does not come about by chance. We have worked hard to achieve this and in 2018 it has been good to reflect on our inclusive nature, and to join the inclusive church network. We have been working hard to have good broad representation in worship too.

The number of people offering themselves for church ministry is so encouraging. We are proud to say that from among us Admos and Paul began training for priestly ministry in 2018. I am delighted that, also, in 2018 Shabana, Amar and Fred were accepted for Authorised Lay Ministry training.

The Mission Action Planning group has done excellent work, you will see the new plan, agreed in 2018, in this report. Our next task is to present the plan in a simple and attractive way so that we can use it effectively.

So much church work is done by a large range of people. I am very grateful to servers, singers, cleaners, givers, Kharis teachers, refreshment servers... so many to thank – impossible to name everyone. Thank you for all you do for your church.

Fr Ian

Report on the Church Council (Sandra A Palmer, Secretary)

Church Council has met several times in 2018 and Standing Committee has also met and transacted its business when necessary. Items discussed include, Sunday evening worship, building work, pastoral issues, safeguarding etc. We are grateful for the commitment and interest of Church Council members.

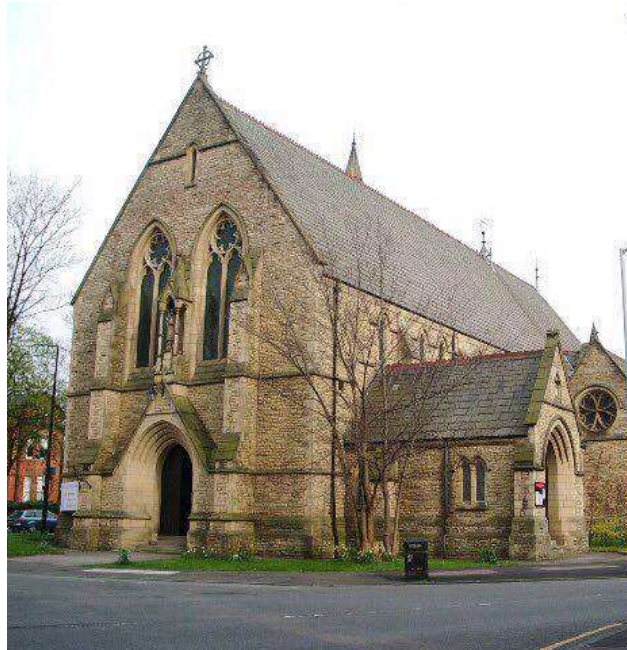
Altar Serving Team (Masters of Ceremonies: Andrew and Amar)

Our altar servers are a very dedicated and joyful band! We are so grateful for all they do. In 2018 they have grown in number and commitment – and range too. We hope to recruit more, and form a Servers' Guild in 2019.

Church Fabric (Alan Beck and Andrew Omokaro – Churchwardens)

On our busiest week, up to four hundred people are in our Church. Our Church family includes the Korean, Ethiopian and Romanian congregations. We keep up with the daily cleaning required (especially on Saturday) and maintenance.

Two leaks in the roof, over the Anson Chapel have been repaired. Men from the Medaille Trust also volunteer for us. Our yearly Spring clean takes place on Easter Saturday ready for Easter Sunday celebrations. Key challenges: Repair of the altar frontals, removal of the old heating pipes, repainting, gardening, and storage space.



English Language Class and Saturday Walks volunteering with the Medaille Trust who work with trafficked men (Alan Beck – Convenor)

By this summer, the classes will have been going for four years, and will reach a total of 410 students. Some students have been attending for as long as two years and are settled in Manchester, with jobs. Boys from the Manchester Grammar School started as volunteer teachers last September. Saturday Walks began last August and recently numbered 15 participants (though only one volunteer accompanying). An art project is being developed with the Whitworth Gallery.

Volunteering for three of the men has started with Together Dementia Support at the Limelight, Trafford. Student “Mike”, along with Alan, gave a talk to the Mothers Union, which resulted in a Saturday Social (6 April) with a professional singer and attendance of 30. (This was the largest party ever given in the UK for trafficked men.) “Mike” will be further interviewed by Alan at a training session for the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (17 May), also hoping for volunteer opportunities.

The Medaille Trust thanks us for donations from our congregation of winter clothing and art supplies. Challenges: More volunteers needed for classes and the Walks.



Young Adult’s Group (Hannah Pyke and Kenson Li – Parish assistants)

As part of our engagement with younger members (predominantly students) we ran a range of numerous activities. As of this year we set up a “Young Adults Group”, which organises social events for the young people of the Church; recently the group had a day trip to Liverpool. As well as days out, we also hold weekly lunches after the main service on Sunday (the wider congregation are invited to join, although it has a particular focus on the young adults). Whilst the social side is important to us, we also offer a monthly service called “Sacred Space” a short act of quiet, peaceful worship, which is organised and has a particular focus on the young adults.



Safeguarding (Fliss Morgan and Paul Pritchard – Safeguarding Officers)

The church continues to engage in activities such as the language classes which present safeguarding risks however these have been well managed throughout the year in line with diocesan policy.

Safeguarding children and young people is also a primary consideration in church life and in all activities provided in the church building.

The safeguarding children lead has advised the standing committee on matters as they have arisen.

No referrals have been made to the diocesan safeguarding team.

All other groups using the church are required to provide a robust safeguarding policy or agree to work to the Manchester diocesan policy.

Level C2 & C3 training has commenced in the parish as has the process of obtaining DBS checks for the PCC and others involved in pastoral and worship activities with children and vulnerable adults.

The priorities for the coming year are the delivery of training and completion of safer recruitment checks (including DBS).

Kharis (Sandra Palmer – Leader)

Kharis is the group for children aged 5-12 which meets between the Gloria and the Peace on Sundays in term term. We usually have between four and eight children present.

Our normal pattern is to have an opening prayer, a short chat, a story and a small art/craft activity associated with the story.

During the past year the children have heard the story of the Moses, stories about Jesus and stories Jesus told, and stories about male and female saints from a wide variety of backgrounds.



Mission Action Planning (Fr Chris Hartley – Assistant Priest)

In producing this short report my thanks go to Alan, Andrew, Tayo, Paul and Kenson for their help in producing the Plan

The full plan is available for anyone to see, and a copy is available on the notice boards at the back of Church. It is comprehensive, draws upon the excellent work done by all of us, and gives some aims and objectives for the future. The Plan details Parish activities, earmarks potential costs, and where appropriate assigns responsibility.

It contains 29 individual objectives for the next 12-18 months and can be summarised under the following priorities:

Priority 1 Growing

- We will develop our engagement with 12-30 years' olds
- We will work to enhance worship and spirituality, for all ages, in our Catholic style and encourage radical challenge.
- We aim to see average Sunday attendance rise by 2.5% per year

Priority 2 Service

- We will work to develop pastoral care especially for the elderly.
- We will to develop our work of service to the schools and to outside agencies such as Cornerstone and the Medaille Trust.
- We will review and assess our "Places of Welcome" and work to see more use of the Church building by church and community Groups, including use for music.
- We will develop our music provision to be inclusive of vulnerable groups such as the homeless and trafficked
- We will enhance security in the building

Priority 3 Nurturing

- We aim to increase regular giving by 5% and fund-raising income by 10% (per year)
- We will foster vocations and encourage people to consider ministry and the religious life in all its forms.
- We will develop lay ministry
- We will develop our group work, for growth in spirituality, and growth in faith and its application

Priority 4 Other areas of work

- We will enhance our building especially in working to make the building safe and accessible for all, wherever possible in an environmentally friendly way.
- We aim to see an increase of web hits, and to develop our social media
- We will produce a plan for regular contact and mailing within the parish

In assigning responsibility, the working party took a collaborative approach with Fr Ian and the PCC overseeing the work, with others involved in the delivery.

Ardwick Deanery Synod (Members, Fr Ian, Fr Chris, Mtr Kim, Admos, Ann, Paul)

Synod has met on three occasions in the past twelve months. Agenda and business has been dominated by discussion of a Deanery Mission Action Plan which seeks to co-ordinate the work already being done, or proposed to be done by individual parishes. To facilitate this Fr Chris Moore had requested that the Deanery had a common objective.

After careful debate and consideration in June of last year, a Mission Statement was adopted by the Deanery

“A supportive deanery which seeks to be welcoming and inclusive. We aim to celebrate our faith, encourage collaboration and partnership and build respect and trust across parish boundaries”

However, in November one parish (not represented in June) objected to this statement and acrimonious debate ensued. This parish wished to remove the word *inclusive* from the statement.

This was in part resolved at February’s (2019) meeting. Prior to the February meeting St Chrysostom’s PCC had sent a motion (passed unanimously by the PCC) that the word *inclusive* remain. On voting on this Synod was over 90% in support of our motion, with only 2 votes actively opposed.

Members of St Chrysostom’s will appreciate the difficult journey which our representatives have had in supporting our Parish’s affirming and positive stance on all matters of inclusivity.



Parish Life



in pictures

