

PARISH PROFILE



trinity.
CHURCH

BARNSTAPLE



CONTENTS:

1. Archdeacon's Foreword
2. Setting the scene
3. Holy Trinity & Goodleigh Benefice Vision Statement
4. Person Specifications/Profile: looking for our new vicar

5. Holy Trinity Mission Action Plan
6. What goes on at Trinity that reflects our vision and values
7. Trinity's network of mutual support
8. Financial & Buildings information
9. Holy Trinity Statistics
10. Trinity Strengths
11. Looking Ahead



12. Goodleigh United: Mission Action Plan
13. Introduction to Goodleigh
14. Worship
15. Bible Study, prayer and fellowship
16. Children and Youth Work
17. Mission and Pastoral Care
18. Financial & Development Project



19. What can we offer our new vicar?

1. ARCHDEACON'S FOREWORD

Set in the northwest corner of Devon, and surrounded by glorious coast and countryside, Holy Trinity Barnstaple and Goodleigh United Church are both vibrant, mission-focused, outward-looking, Spirit-led, evangelical congregations.

The post of vicar of these churches is a major one in the Archdeaconry. We aim to appoint someone who has experience of leading good-sized ministry leadership teams, has helped grow congregations and is committed to the development of lay ministry at every level. S/he will need to be an integrated mix of pastor, spiritual servant leader and strategic thinker.

Holy Trinity is large in Devon terms: 200 in the congregation - the largest we have in North Devon. It's an urban church in the southern part of Barnstaple, but draws its congregation from all over the town and further afield. It has a heart for those on the margins, and is constantly looking to ways to serve and evangelise. You will see that Mission Teams and a wide range of groups within the congregation are doing just that. They seek a vicar who has the skill and experience to help them grow from their current size to an even larger church, and who can help them review their leadership and small group structures to enable this to happen.

Goodleigh United Church is a village church and an Anglican-Methodist LEP, now sharing one building with one church council. It has a smaller congregation (c36), but nonetheless a good number for the size of the community. It too draws some people in from the surrounding area, including farmers and their families, and looks outward to sharing the Gospel with its community, not least the school. One of the challenges is how to make the church building fit for mission – a project already under discussion.

Both churches have strong lay leadership, and the person appointed will need to continue the tradition of collaborative team working. The ability to “motivate and release people into ministry” as the Profile says is crucial. There is strong support both paid and voluntary, including a SSM Associate Priest, who has just finished her curacy, administrators and children and youth workers. Above all, there are committed, prayerful and mission-minded congregations.

Both churches are part of the Barnstaple Mission Community, which is also about to become a Group ministry. It is vital that whoever is appointed is happy to work collaboratively with Anglican colleagues in the other 6 churches, as well as ecumenically within Churches Together. A commitment to the life of the Barnstaple Deanery is also important.

Mission Communities are an essential and well-established strategy in the Diocese for mission, ministry and growth. This strategy has been reviewed and recalibrated around three priorities: Growing in Prayer, Making New Disciples, and Serving the People of Devon with Joy. Our Diocesan Strategy document ‘Our Vision and Strategy’ (March 2016) can be found on the Diocesan website. You will need to show commitment to this. As well as local support within the parishes, there are a number of Diocesan resources to draw on to help develop mission and ministry and we hope the person appointed will make full use of them.

These churches are an exciting place to be. There is plenty to do and develop, but also dedicated disciples to share the journey.

The Ven Dr Mark Butchers, Archdeacon of Barnstaple

2. SETTING THE SCENE



Holy Trinity is a lively, mission focussed church in the centre of Barnstaple. We are a community committed to making Jesus known and serving the poor. We long to see people’s lives transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. We try to do all we can to help each other grow spiritually and serve God better. We try to be a community where everyone is welcome.

Goodleigh United Church is 2.5 miles outside Barnstaple and is an expression of Christian churches in Goodleigh that initially was a coming together of the Anglican and Methodists in an official LEP. However, it has grown to encompass people from many denominations.

The new incumbent will work within and support the different traditions and the vision of Holy Trinity & Goodleigh.

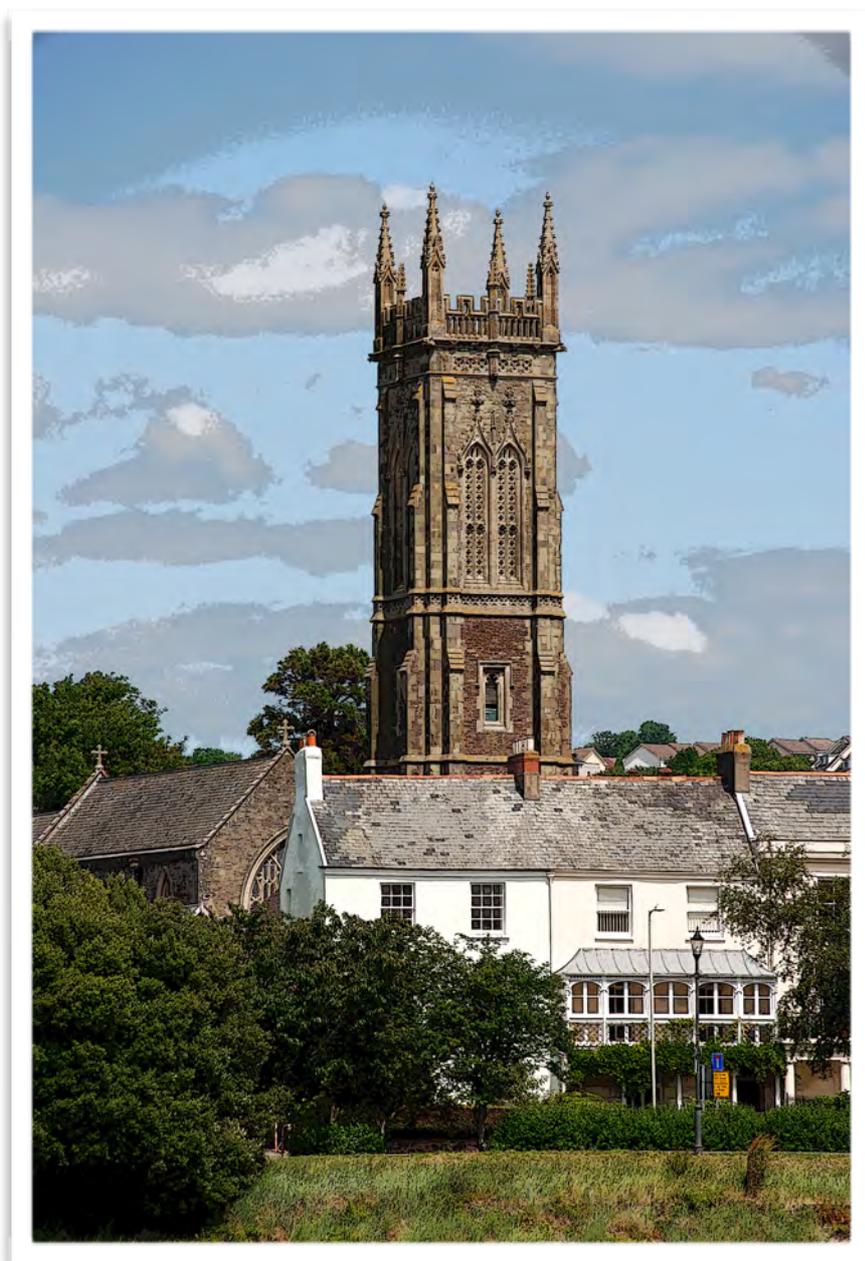
Holy Trinity is part of the Barnstaple Mission Community alongside 7 other churches: St Peter’s in the town centre; Bishops Tawton; Goodleigh; Newport; Pilton with Ashford; and Sticklepath. At present these churches are part of a Team Ministry but this is to be replaced with a Group Ministry later in 2017. This Group ministry will comprise 5 benefices: Trinity and Goodleigh, Bishops Tawton and Newport, Pilton and Ashford, Sticklepath and St Peter’s, with a group council chaired between the five benefices in

rotation. The allocation of stipendiary clergy will be 1.0 for Holy Trinity and Goodleigh, 1.0 for Newport and Bishop's Tawton and 0.66 for each of the other Benefices.

The Mission Community is intended to be fairly light touch, but providing a structure that will help parishes work together as and when appropriate.

In addition, we work very closely with the other churches in the town through Churches Together which meets once every 2 months with representatives from the majority of churches in Barnstaple. Churches Together meet to plan joint events, to share what the individual churches are doing in mission and to support each other in those activities. Holy Trinity has taken the lead on the Good Friday Witness, jointly leading the Pentecost service in the town Pannier Market and the Nativity Trail around the town centre. Trinity members are part of the Street Pastors team (a Churches Together mission) who maintain a presence on the town's streets twice a month.

Holy Trinity and Goodleigh United Church share a vicar, and consequently we have a particularly close relationship. Thank you for looking at the position we are offering at Holy Trinity Barnstaple and St Gregory's Goodleigh.



3. HOLY TRINITY & GOODLEIGH BENEFICE VISION STATEMENT

We want to worship God in a way that really engages our heart and is open to the Holy Spirit.

We believe prayer is the centre of all we do and desire intimacy with God through a rich devotional life.

We will be churches where we grow in discipleship, spiritual maturity and develop our gifts. By welcoming all people to our churches, we will see continued growth.

We will be rooted in the Bible as we grow in generosity, in courage, and in faith-inspired mission.

Our vision is to live for Jesus in our communities.

4. PERSON PROFILE: LOOKING FOR OUR NEW VICAR

Thank you for looking at the position we are offering at Holy Trinity and Goodleigh United Church. Both churches are very well attended.

Holy Trinity is full most Sunday mornings; the challenges for the new incumbent will be to continue the growth with people coming to faith and to help us develop a new congregation possibly elsewhere in the parish.

The main task at Goodleigh will be to oversee the changes to the church building to make it fit for missional purpose.

We are looking for someone who is able to take these two churches forward, helping the congregations of the two parishes to work more closely together.

The right candidate to be the Incumbent Designate will have demonstrated significant levels of relevant leadership and ordained experience.

ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES:

We are looking for someone who is passionate about Jesus and longs to serve Him, whose preaching, teaching and living are biblically and prayerfully based under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

A person who

- is an energetic leader who will encourage evangelism in both churches;
- has a clear commitment to developing a strong support base for feedback and encouragement for themselves;
- will model a culture where people matter more than programme;
- is able to motivate and release people into ministry;
- is comfortable in leading informal Spirit-led services and who possesses sensitivity and pastoral skills to minister to people as the incumbent;

- who is able to support, lead and grow our mission teams, whilst recognising his/her own need for support;
- is able work in a leadership team and empower full lay involvement in the life of both churches; who supports and encourages the ministry of lay people in leading services and mission teams;
- is able to deal effectively and sensitively with problems and if necessary make difficult decisions to prevent problems from escalating;
- is a team player who can use the resources of a mid-sized church to motivate outreach, mission and discipleship;
- will encourage the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and supports enthusiastically the New Wine movement;
- will support and encourage the worship teams to create a safe space for people to meet Jesus in times of worship;
- is mission focussed with experience of missional communities and able to facilitate church planting;
- will encourage ministry to the 'poor' and disadvantaged; facilitate the local CAP centre
- shares the values and vision of the two churches;
- will value working with Churches Together in Barnstaple and the Mission Community Group Ministry; and
- will be committed to and able to line manage some of those in ministry in the church, for example Children and Families worker, Youth worker, CAP manager, the Administrator and the Curate.

DESIRABLE ATTRIBUTES:

- to be a visible presence in the local community;
- to strengthen the links between both congregations and their communities;
- to support Open the Book across Barnstaple schools; and
- to be willing to support the ministry opportunities in the schools of both parishes:

Ashleigh Church of England Primary School

Forches Cross Community School and

Goodleigh Church of England Primary School

5. HOLY TRINITY: MISSION ACTION PLAN



“LIVING FOR JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY”

OUR PURPOSE:

We believe that we exist as a church so that:

- others find Christ and are discipled
- God is worshipped
- the needs of the poor are met
- we are part of a welcoming Christian family
- we can become more like Jesus

and that our particular purpose as a community of God’s people in Barnstaple is to work and pray alongside other followers of Jesus for a revival of Christian faith in North Devon by actively making disciples and serving those in need.

OUR VALUES:

We value: People coming to faith
 A strong sense of community and support
 Growth - we want the church to grow so that we can be more effective
 Intimacy with God (a rich devotional life)
 Worship that really engages the heart and is open to the Holy Spirit
 A strong connection with the community
 Coming alongside people going through difficult times
 Being rooted in the Bible
 Prayer at the heart
 Being multi-generational
 Working with other Christians
 An ethos of team
 A culture of welcome

OUR PRACTICES:

(i.e. the way we express this and put our values into action)

- A network of Mission Teams - as a focus for mission and outreach (see groups structure diagram)
- Encouraging each other to have a rich devotional life
- Encouraging shared prayer: monthly prayer meetings and weekly prayer on Sunday mornings
- Encouraging each other to be missional in our daily lives
- Sunday worship that helps people engage with God: support for worship leaders
- Being alert to ways in which our worship can help us engage better with God
- Bible courses to grow in understanding of scripture
- Encouraging leadership development by giving emergent leaders responsibility and support
- Effective children and youth ministries both in local schools, the community and within the church
- Encouraging Discipleship Triplets
- Using Alpha, SEAN www.seaninternational.com/courses. Life to the Full and Pure Gold to make and grow disciples
- Using Short Bible Courses www.precept.org.uk to help people grow in knowledge of scripture



OUR 5 YEAR VISION FOR TRINITY:

- Each church member is in a small Bible-based fellowship group with a mission purpose, to grow as a disciple.
- Multiple worshipping communities and mission initiatives in different places and times as our church building is full on Sundays
- All are confidently using the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit to transform lives
- The church building is open 7 days a week as a place for sanctuary, encounter and transformation.
- Many new believers in the next 5 years (at least 100)

OUR AGREED IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES:

- Develop effective leadership that holds the vision
- Clarify our leadership structure
- Clarify the small group structure
- Encourage people to explore and use the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Open up the church building to all at least 2 hours a day



‘WORSHIPPING TOGETHER ON SUNDAY IS THE HEART AND HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WEEK.’

6. WHAT GOES ON AT TRINITY THAT REFLECTS OUR VISION

The pattern of services and activities at Holy Trinity makes full use of buildings and involves the majority of church members. We seek to serve God in all we do. As the church is carpeted and well heated with flexible seating, it is used for many regular activities during the week.

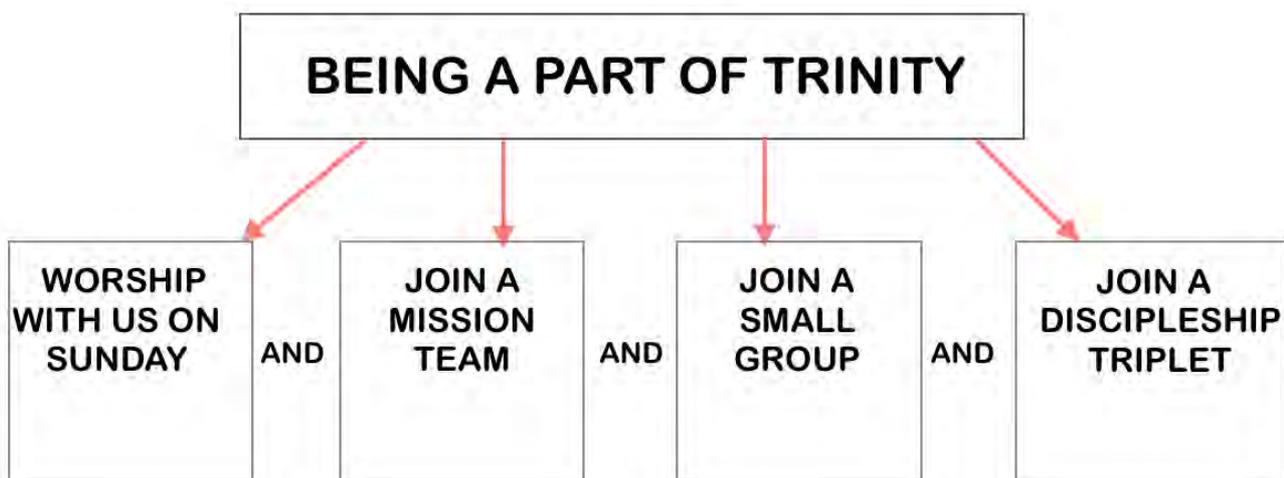
It is the central focus of our identity as Christians; we worship God, we learn from God's word, we encourage and care for each other and we look outwards. Everyone is important and valued. Every single one of us matters to God and to each other. From car park attendants to prayer ministry, many contribute and serve regularly on Sundays.

The Sunday 10.30 Service is regularly attended by 200 with an organised crèche, children's activities called Lighthouse (3-4 years, 5-11 years) and a Youth group for 11-16 year olds who meet during the service.

Communion is part of the service twice a month. Worship is led by experienced musicians and in a lively way draws us together and towards God. Oasis at 19.00 is a more fluid and informal evening service attended by 50—60 people. There is Messy Church once a month

We see being a Christian as a 24/7 whole life matter, so we encourage each other to have a missional approach to our working day as well as our leisure and family life.

The Commitment we seek of members is four-fold



JOIN A MISSION TEAM

Being a follower of Jesus always involves doing mission. It's really helpful to do this together.

On the 4th Sunday in each month Mission teams like Trinity Neighbours and Room Service go out from Trinity into the community while WARP and EXTRAVAGANT focus on bringing unchurched children into Trinity with outreach activities in which young leaders play a significant role. Wildfire, Deeper & Explore Small groups take 'church' out of the building at other times.



JOIN A SMALL GROUP

Being part of a small group helps us to stay connected to God and support each other. Some are time-limited Bible study groups; others are more like classic fellowship groups and some are linked with mission teams.

JOIN A DISCIPLESHIP TRIPLET

We all need encouragement and close relationships to grow as Christians and the Discipleship Triplets give us opportunities for accountability and close pastoral support.



BIBLE SCHOOL - TUESDAY EVENINGS

At Trinity we long to see people come to faith and ask Jesus into their lives . However the journey into freedom in Christ and living life to the full does not stop there and we place great emphasis on being disciples and discipling others. Trinity Bible School comprises a range of Bible study groups with varying degrees of homework, some based on the SEAN material, some on Precept Bible study and some from other material. The 'Life of Christ' group this year has finished the full course of 6 books. This has been an amazing 4 years of study which has changed our understanding of the life of Christ and what his life means to us today. Those who have completed Alpha are given the opportunity to study 'Life to the Full' and 'Pure Gold' both of which give a great foundation to the Christian faith and an overview of the Bible.

CHILDRENS' & YOUTH MINISTRY

Sparks for children under 2 years meet in the crèche room in the main building. The team is strong and invaluable assisted by members from the Youth. The format tends to be a Bible story, some songs and maybe a basic craft activity, in addition to playing!

Little Lights - the provision for 3-4 years olds is still evolving, making greater use of the re- established garden area so on 4th Sundays they meet outdoors for Garden Gang. Otherwise they join in the older group and have a play area set aside for them.

Lighthouse Keepers 5-11 years

The sessions always run with a blend of worship, games, teamwork, story, drama, response and prayer

Youth on Sundays

Since January 2017, the youth work has been run by our two home-grown apprentices and the role of youth worker has been filled by the curate. A new Youth worker has been appointed for September 2017. This spring, 24 young people are enthusiastically doing Youth Alpha



OUTREACH INTO OUR COMMUNITY

Monday Morning Toddler group

The team transforms the church building into a child-friendly space with a variety of activities and equipment. . Monday Morning families are invited to other activities church such as Messy Church and Alpha and some have brought their children for dedication.

Tuesday Coffee Mornings run by the Trinity Neighbours team is well attended by up to 70 coming for coffee, cake, craft or indoor bowls or just to sit and chat.

Trinity Lunch Once a month, a tasty, home cooked two course lunch including tea and coffee is provided by a small team and follows on from the popular weekly coffee morning.



Praying in the nearby streets happens on 4th Sundays; during the previous week, the mission team delivers prayer request forms to a chosen street. There are now over 40 names of people who have either asked for prayer or just enjoyed a conversation with the team.

Children and Families Ministry

The Trinity links to schools continue to deepen, with an excellent team of committed members supporting the Children & Families Worker in this essential, exciting outreach work. Trinity works with a number of schools: Ashleigh, Forches, Goodleigh, Orchard Vale, Park, Pilton Bluecoat, and Sticklepath in a network with other churches especially for X-site, a Scripture Union initiative, and with Open the Book Teams.

Trinity leads Open the Book School at Ashleigh as well as hosting a cross denominational group that organises the Advent, Easter & Pentecost Experiences.

Youth

Each Friday evening a relaxed, welcoming Youth Club runs with computer games, table tennis and other activities. The regular 'God Slot' with hot chocolate is a time for testimony, discussion and sharing the gospel. The current youth apprentices are running a Friday Christian Union in a local secondary school.

Alpha

Alpha courses run throughout the year and we have seen many people of all ages and from all walks of life come to find out more about the Christian faith.

Interface

Every Saturday, teams open the hall for hot drinks, food and conversation for the marginalised and lonely.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

Trinity is the lead church for the North Devon CAP Debt Centre working with five other churches. In three years, a number of clients have become debt free with others working well with CAP to reach that point. There is a very committed group of people supporting the clients. A couple of social events are arranged each year for clients and volunteers.

Room Service has about 20 members who are dedicated to going into Care Homes or Sheltered Housing to take church to people who are less able or unable to get to church. As new members have joined, the ministry has been extended to five venues.

X-Site

This is a SU brand of a countrywide mission to reach children aged 7-11 (Key Stage 2) with high action, exciting worship and games and a gospel message. Over the past three years, the event has run in November, February and June, with a core team of approx 6, from 3 different churches (Grosvenor, Trinity, Christ Church). This has now expanded to include more churches and further leaders. X-site is also an excellent way to bring on young leaders and encourage other members of churches to work together.

Gorwell Coffee Morning on a housing estate at the edge of town was started in 2016 meeting on Monday mornings with the aim to befriend, reach people with the good news of Jesus and to share our faith.

Wildfire This new 4th Sunday mission team started late 2016 to welcome families and friends (within and beyond church) to meet God outdoors in a variety of ways; hill walks, barbecues and time together. The group mixes Bible study, worship and praying for each other, to experience and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Messy Church

Has been a monthly event for the past 5 years drawing in new families and deepening relationships with the more regular attendees. An hour of activities, singing and fun is followed by a free homemade sit down meal



Art Group

With 24 members currently plus a waiting list, the group continues to produce beautiful work and is a kind, friendly, warm hearted, helpful and therapeutic place to be.



Explore and Worship Mission team meet fortnightly exploring, growing and finding ways to share the gospel with others. Explore has evolved into 3 groups exploring creativity, cycling and intentional intimacy with God.

Warp has been running for the past 4 years meeting on a 4th Sunday. It is aimed at boys (5-10 years) to allow them to explore their faith through their passions – be it messing about in the park, playing football or even gaming!

Extravagant meets on 4th Sundays and the girls bring their school friends along to this popular event . Junior leaders are drawn from the Youth group. Sometimes, the girls join Room Service at Barum Court to chat and share their morning's activities.

Reform group is a pub-based Bible study and discussion group meeting on 4th Sunday evenings at the Reform Inn, Pilton.

7. TRINITY'S NETWORK OF MUTUAL SUPPORT

The Leadership team of 12 meets weekly and are appointed by invitation of the incumbent. This team works with and supports the vicar to ensure services, teaching and outreach work concur with the church's vision statement and the ideals we have as Christ followers. In addition to the full time Vicar, there is a self-supporting curate. The PCC meets every two months as does the Standing Committee. The APCM April 2017 resolved to reduce the PCC elected numbers to 6, aiming to increase decision-making efficiency.

Prayer is the essence of our lives, both as individuals and as a Christian community. Praying together enables God to be at work among us and through prayer we see his will being done in our lives.

Every Sunday we meet at 9.30 before the morning service to pray for the corporate worship; we pray not just for ourselves but for the churches across Barnstaple.

Prayer Meeting. On the first Thursday evening of each month, we meet for our whole church prayer meeting. We always start with worship and then we break into smaller groups and focus on a range of concerns from our own church life to the wider world. Our prayer meetings are good places to be, they are engaging, relevant and purposeful. Of course prayer happens in many of our small groups too but it's a Trinity value that we set aside specific times to pray as a church and our hope is that people from across all ages in the church feel welcome to take part.

Discipleship Triplets

Since October 2016, many in the church have formed/joined triplets to whom we are accountable and who will cheer us on, affirming our steps of faith as Christ's disciples.

Administration

The office, based in the church hall, is very much a communication hub for the life of the church. The Administrators endeavour to reflect a warm welcome and a helpful response to all who contact them, especially to members of the public for whom they are the face of the church. A staff meeting is held every Tuesday morning to oversee the diary, deal with any immediate issues and to progress the plans of the PCC and Leadership team. The Administrator and Assistant are paid employees as are the Youth and Children & Families Workers.



Pastoral Team is led by the incumbent

Holy Trinity Church is a family made up of people of varying ages, backgrounds and circumstances. We place a great emphasis on looking out for each other and especially supporting people through difficult times. With the growth in the church this is something we particularly work at.

Beach Baptisms

Every year we meet as a church on the beach at Putsborough for the annual baptisms. This is a day of true delight as we hear of people coming to faith and then being baptised in the sea.

Gender Specific groups meet weekly to study and pray, in addition to breakfasts and weekends away.

Deeper Young Adults aged 16 - 21 years have aimed to meet weekly to grow deeper with Jesus together. They meet up socially or have a Bible study in homes, cafes or other venues. Through the group friendships have deepened as has their relationships with God.



Worship team

Four Worship Leaders form bands of six or seven musicians and singers for the Sunday services and include drums, guitars, keyboard, flutes and saxophone.

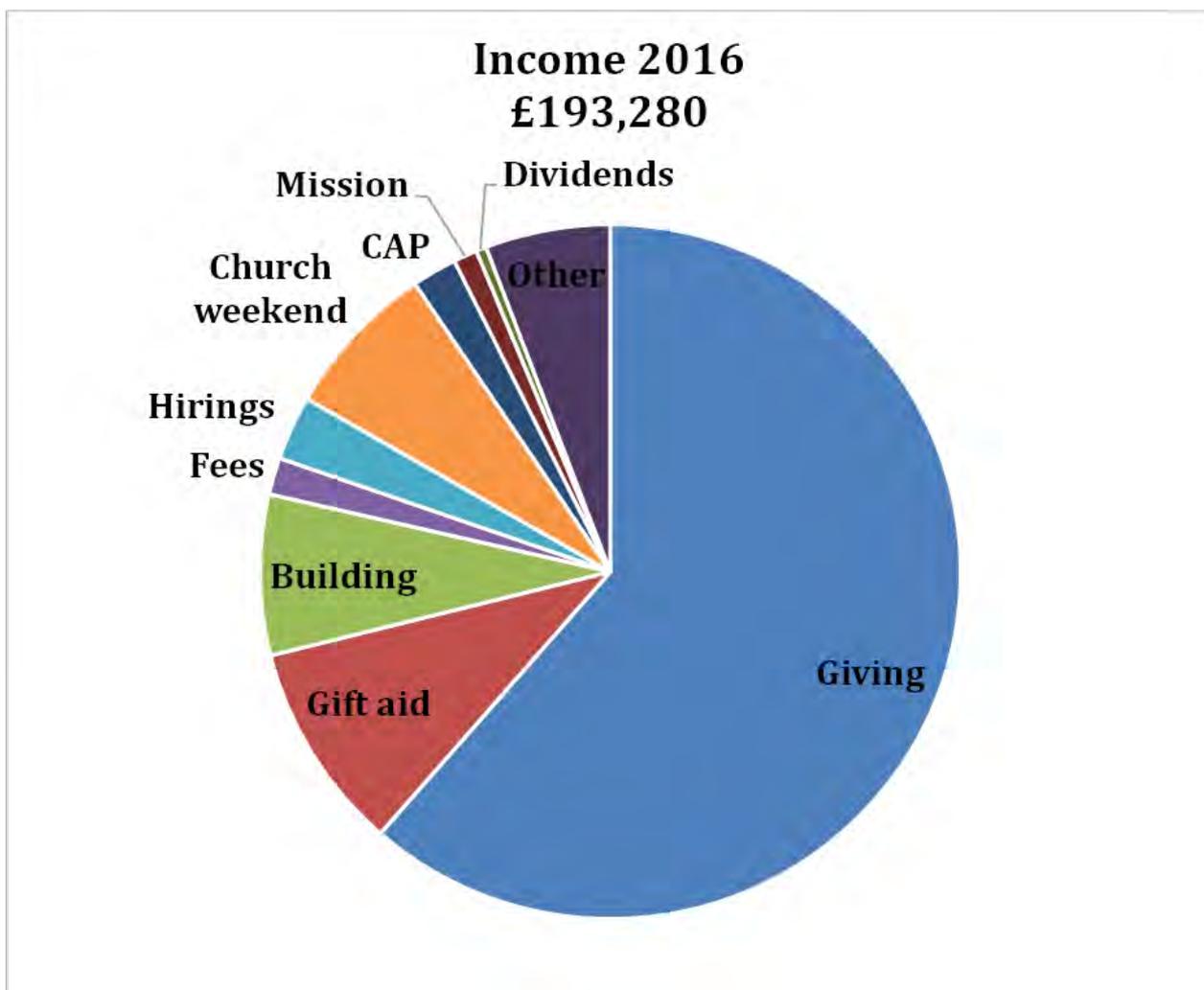
We are blessed by the musical ministry and are well supported by the sound and laptop operators.



8. FINANCIAL & BUILDING INFORMATION

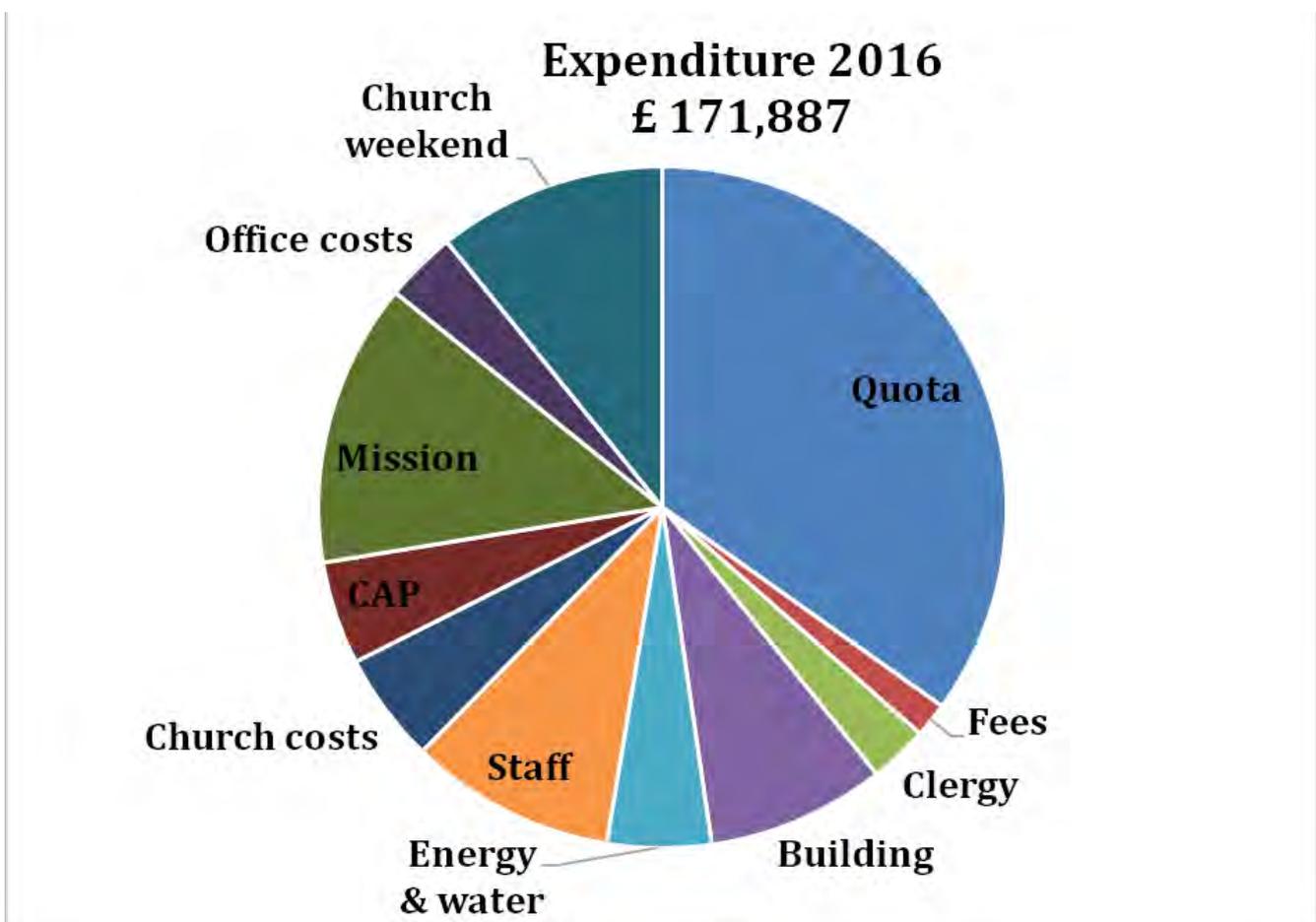
Trinity is a generous church and although many are involved in Planned Giving, many others contribute significantly so our Common Fund share of £65,878 (2017) is covered annually. The Common fund payments for clergy and diocesan support increases by around 10 % per year with similar increases in other costs, but with prayer, the regular giving currently continues to match regular costs. We tithe 10% of the unrestricted giving we receive to support 9 or 10 national and international mission charities with links to the church, and we were also able to pass £3,600 to LAMA House towards a girls' hostel as a tithe from our building fund in 2016. www.lamaministries.org

The Quinquennial building report 2015 set out repair priorities that are being funded and completed in stages. Repairs have been made to leaded glass windows in the vestry and toy store; a cherry picker visit each year enables us to monitor the stonework, repair roof slates and maintain gutters.



The most recent project was the re-institution of the church garden; it required w buttresses, raised garden beds, mobility-friendly walkways and turfing, and took place in July 2016. The vision for the garden is for it to be linked to the church through a glazed door, providing access for the many groups using the building and to be used by many as a prayer space as well as for community initiatives. The Scouts and Beaver Cubs already use the space, and a gardening club run by Age UK and North Devon Dementia Action Alliance started in May 2017.

The next capital expense will be a new door to the garden and we are currently tendering and obtaining approvals for the chancel roof. We are considering upgrading the video system in the future to better serve the church as numbers and use grow, and have recently fitted a projector in the Hall room. The funds for all works were raised by a building appeal within Trinity augmented by regular giving.



9. HOLY TRINITY STATISTICS

Holy Trinity Statistics 2016-2017

<i>Usual Sunday attendance</i>	<i>168 (Easter Day 2017 attendees 311)</i>
<i>Usual Sunday attendance under 18 years</i>	36
<i>Number of participants in our worshipping community</i>	<i>250 = 197 adults & 53 under 16 years</i>
<i>Average attendance on Sundays</i>	202
<i>Number on Electoral roll</i>	126
<i>Baptisms</i>	8 Youth & adults
<i>Infant Thanksgivings</i>	3 infants
<i>Weddings</i>	5
<i>Funerals</i>	3
<i>in church</i>	5
<i>In crematorium</i>	4

Parish census and deprivation summary

Parish population (2011): 6612

Parish	Diocese	National
% aged 0-17	25%	19%
% aged 18-44	37%	32%
% aged 45-64	24%	28%
% aged 65 & over	14%	21%
% Christian	53%	61%
% non-Christian religion	2%	9%

Parish deprivation rank (IMD, 2015): 1339

1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,599=least deprived

Number of churches in parish (2016): 1 Parish code: 150402

There are approximately five nursing homes/retirement homes in the parish, one youth centre and one Children's Centre

SCHOOLS:

Ashleigh Church of England Primary School - 250 children on the roll

Forches Cross Community Primary School - 178 children on the roll

with whom we have regular weekly contact. Orchard Vale Community School in Whiddon Valley falls within the parish boundaries but is served through Scripture Union.

10. TRINITY STRENGTHS

Trinity Strengths: we...

- are a warm and generous community where people feel welcomed and valued
- have gifted worship leaders with dynamic Sunday worship open to the Holy Spirit
- have a strong volunteer base reflected in the list of activities
- have much lay involvement in services and mission
- have an administrative office with paid support
- have a versatile church building which is used almost every day
- are a church that is alive in God's Spirit, where worship and prayer are real
- take services seriously in terms of both content and preaching
- have a focus on the concept of discipleship and spiritual growth
- are experiencing numerical growth
- are a generous church in financial giving and sharing
- are welcoming, community-centred and family focussed
- have a relaxed and inclusive approach that is non-threatening
- value highly our strong children's and youth work
- have missional approach in everything
- have a commendable focus on serving the disadvantaged
- have a leadership team which is passionate and united about key issues
- have a collegiate leadership team who share the oversight of the church
- have a strong administrative team.

Trinity Aspirations: we...

- desire to have the church open more often with a view to creating a space for prayer and sanctuary
- are building a new web site
- are connecting more of the congregation into groups facilitating better pastoral support but keeping our focus on mission
- intend to re-open the climbing wall
- plan to expand children's ministry to include mid-week discipleship groups and after school clubs linked to Scripture Union Guardians of Ancora
- are addressing areas of the church estate which need attention as directed by the latest quinquennial report and open up the side chapel into the garden space with a glass door
- intend to expand youth work in the community and schools with the recent appointment of a youth worker
- seek to create new ways to accommodate an increasing congregation in a full church - either a different service or church plant on one of the housing estates in the parish.

Both the strengths and aspirations release the incumbent of the parish to use his or her gifts in nurturing the congregation and engaging in mission and evangelism.

12. GOODLEIGH UNITED: MISSION ACTION PLAN



Our Vision as a United Church in Goodleigh is to be:

A Serving Church, Jesus Centred and Family Focussed

We Value:

- Unity and good relationships
- Being a community that embraces all ages
- Being accessible to and open to everyone
- Being open to God and growing in faith
- Having Jesus at the centre of our lives both personally and as a community

We recognise challenges both in our culture and within ourselves to push the things of God to the edge of life and we want to encourage and support each other to seek first God's kingdom and to be people of faith, sharing faith in our community.

Priorities

1. Developing mid-week meetings for Prayer, Praise and Bible Study

We will continue to hold regular Bible Studies and Praise and fellowship evenings to enable us to grow as Christians and as a Church, to understand our mission and to develop our relationship with God and each other.

2. Maintaining and Developing our Prayer ministry

We will continue to hold regular prayer meetings and encourage each other to pray together and on our own. We support central prayer meetings in the wider community of North Devon where people from all denominations come together to pray for events and our nation.

3. Engaging with the School

We have a very positive relationship with Goodleigh School including the Head Teacher, teaching staff, parents and children. We aim to build on this strong relationship and develop it in the years ahead through continuing involvement with and contribution to the school governing body.

We will continue to contribute to the life of the school through our 'Open the Book' team and leading regular assemblies, as well as continuing to invite the school to participate in worship at major festivals.

4. Developing our music and worship

We aim to develop our collective and individual worship by encouraging each other to contribute to our meetings in a variety of different ways. We recognise the need for good leadership in this area and are blessed by lots of good musicians in the church who lead us into worship. They are keen to have regular opportunities to develop our music-making skills.

5. Mission

We recognise and understand that Jesus has given us the Great Commission to go into all the world to make disciples, extend the Kingdom of God and build His Church. We aim to do that in our locality by:

- a. Sharing our faith with our neighbours in a natural way
- b. Teaching the Gospel in our services and helping people to come to faith
- c. Living as caring Christians in the community
- d. Praying regularly for the extension of God's Kingdom in Goodleigh and beyond.
- e. Holding Junior Church on Sundays and midweek Christian assemblies in Goodleigh School
- f. Hosting regular social events to connect with the village
- g. Hosting monthly soup and pudding lunches for Senior Citizens
- h. Looking for opportunities to share good news e.g. Newlands Lodge or Chelfham Nursing Homes etc
- i. Joining with Christians from all denominations in North Devon to contribute to major initiatives for extending God's Kingdom and reaching the unchurched
- j. Making practical and financial contributions to social projects for the poor and disadvantaged

6. Completing the Sharing agreement

We have come a long way in our journey as Christians Together in Goodleigh. The Anglican and Methodist churches are now joined with one Church Council, one bank account, one meeting place and one heart. We are in the process of completing all the final paperwork of our sharing agreement and we are hoping to release some funds from the Methodist chapel to add something extra to the shared church building.

7. Maintaining growth, an all-age environment and family friendly atmosphere

We are a growing church and aim to be relevant for all ages and all people. We understand the need to pray, change, grow and adapt to maintain our growth and to enable this to continue without compromising our faith. We will continue to encourage the development of a small worship group in the church and aim to give everyone in the church a useful task to facilitate the running of the church and its development.

8. Developing our relationship with the wider Body of Christ in North Devon

We have a good relationship with the various churches in our region and aim to develop these links in the years ahead. We have a very close link with Holy Trinity, Barnstaple and we are very keen to preserve and strengthen this relationship through shared clergy leadership. We also have a very good relationship with the Methodist Circuit and Grosvenor Church. We are involved in shared community events such as the Walk of Witness and Pentecost Services in the Pannier market.

9. Maintaining and developing good leadership

If there is no vision the people perish and the church disintegrates. We have excellent leadership and teaching from Rev Robert Hurley and Rev.Simon May, which has facilitated our growth and development. The United Church Council also has a leadership responsibility. We are aware that good leadership needs to be sustained. We will work together to encourage our leaders and help them in every way possible.

10. Safeguarding

We will continue to develop our safeguarding practices and policies in the church to protect vulnerable adults, children and everyone in our community as far as possible.

13. INTRODUCTION TO GOODLEIGH

Thank you for expressing an interest in this particular post.

We are a Church based in the heart of Goodleigh, (Parish Code 150414), a village location some 3 miles from the town of Barnstaple where we are partners with Holy Trinity Church. We have a village population of approximately 450 residents, with an average weekly congregation of 36, whose ages range from 12 months to 89 years!

Over the past years we have benefitted greatly from the ministry and teaching of our much loved and respected Vicar who is now retiring. However, as Christians Together in Goodleigh the Anglican and Methodist churches are joined with one Church Council, one bank account, one meeting place and one heart, and we have been very blessed to have continued part time support from our Methodist minister. We are a family focussed, living, vibrant Church that has seen real growth and it is with great excitement that we move forward in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We acknowledge we are on a journey, a journey with God:

Growing into a deeper relationship with Him through worship. Growing into a deeper relationship with Him through daily prayer and study of the Bible. Growing through teaching and preaching.

We believe we are on a journey with each other:

Establishing and developing collaborative ministry. Learning together. Encouraging and affirming one another. Supporting and equipping one another in more effective mission and evangelism.

Being placed in a beautiful village we are on a journey with this community:

Developing the contacts already established. Being aware of the needs of others and responsive to their needs. Looking to further develop our relationship and involvement with all our local families and our village School. Reaching out to the lost and underprivileged.

We are confident that God already knows who He wants to lead us in the next stage of our journey and we look forward to the appointment of our new Vicar.



14. WORSHIP

We joyfully embrace a wide mix of traditional Holy Communion Services, along with more Informal / Family Worship Services. We are led each week by either a Minister, or by one of our visiting lay preachers, or individuals / families from within the Church. A number of our congregation participate in Bible readings, prayers and sharing personal God given experiences.

Music is growing. We have several musicians, mostly pianists who play the piano, keyboard or Church pipe organ. We also have a musical family who accompany us with bass guitar and drums. We have recently started a monthly music group where we are exploring newer worship songs and developing a band to lead worship on a weekly basis.

We have a new sound system that is linked through a loop system for those using hearing aids and a visual monitor from which we project songs, pictures and video clips.

Our service time is 9.30am after which we often have refreshments and time spent sharing in prayer and fellowship.



Pictured above: A Visiting Choir. We now have our own 'informal' choir for special occasions and a lively worship band made up of a variety of instruments.

15. BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

We share in regular fellowship together through monthly Prayer Breakfast Meetings (the first Saturday in each month), Music Group (the first Tuesday of each month), Bible Study (the second Tuesday of each month), Supper Club (the third Tuesday of each month) and Praise and Fellowship (the fourth Tuesday of each month).

We have an active prayer chain through which prayer requests are circulated. Over the past 18 months this has included prayers for health concerns, bereavement, pregnancy, child related worries, marriage issues, safety and other issues while travelling abroad, European issues – terrorism, and celebration – the birth of grandchildren!



We run regular craft evenings in the village hall for the local community, which are very popular.



16. CHILDRENS' AND YOUTH WORK



Goodleigh Junior Church meets regularly in the Chapel building and village school playground. At present it mainly comprises one family, but there are visiting children who join, especially through the school holidays.

We have a really good relationship with Holy Trinity Church who, being a bigger town Church, have a large number of teenagers and with whom our local youngsters join in their youth outreach.

Within the Mission Community we have continued to work together with initiatives like Open the Book which we share on a weekly basis with our village school.

We have a good collection of puppets and plenty of imaginative scripts which we use with the children at various special services and events.

Our prayer at Goodleigh is for more families to come to faith and share with us the love of Jesus.

17. MISSION AND PASTORAL CARE

Being Bible based and Spirit led, we are very aware of our calling to go out and be 'fishers of men'. We connect with the local community to build relationships that will lead to sharing faith. We rejoice that the Lord has enabled our monthly 'Soup and Pudding Club' to continue and flourish over many years. What a joy it is to serve the Lord and share His love with the pensioners in this village. Regular 'Craft Evenings' have also been developed and are attended by families and middle aged villagers.



Each year we celebrate those special events in the Christian calendar, prayerfully asking the Lord to guide us and show us how we can best reach out into our community. Our Christmas services include a time of 'Celebration and Praise' in our village hall and 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Church – both these services always being well attended.

Living in the heart of the country we enjoy fellowship with our local farmers, especially on Rogation Sunday when a large group of us travel to various locations praying for each of the farms that we visit. Equally, Harvest is a time of celebration when we share in a service of thanksgiving followed by lunch, either in the village hall or on one of the farms.

The Church continues to reach out into the community in other ways too. We have held several BBQ's and Barn Dances where we have invited all those living in the village to join us and enjoy family time together.

Whilst we have no formal pastoral team, we do have several members of the congregation who visit members of the community regularly and bring back to the Church any concerns, so that we can all pray on their behalf and, if appropriate, action further help.





OUR VISION

Is to GROW and BUILD.

As a Church we want to grow. We want to grow in our discipleship, spiritual maturity and developing our gifts. We want to see continued growth in our numbers, by welcoming new people to our church. But not content in simply seeing people sat in pews, our desire is to help people taking their first steps on their journey of faith. To do this we have to grow in confidence as well as perhaps a willingness to take risks. We want to grow in generosity, in courage, and in faith-inspired action.

We want to see people and congregations built up and equipped for service. We want to tackle the shortcomings of our building so that we can become truly fit for purpose in this twenty first century. We want to build capacity and strength in others. We want to play a transformative part in the building of our community.

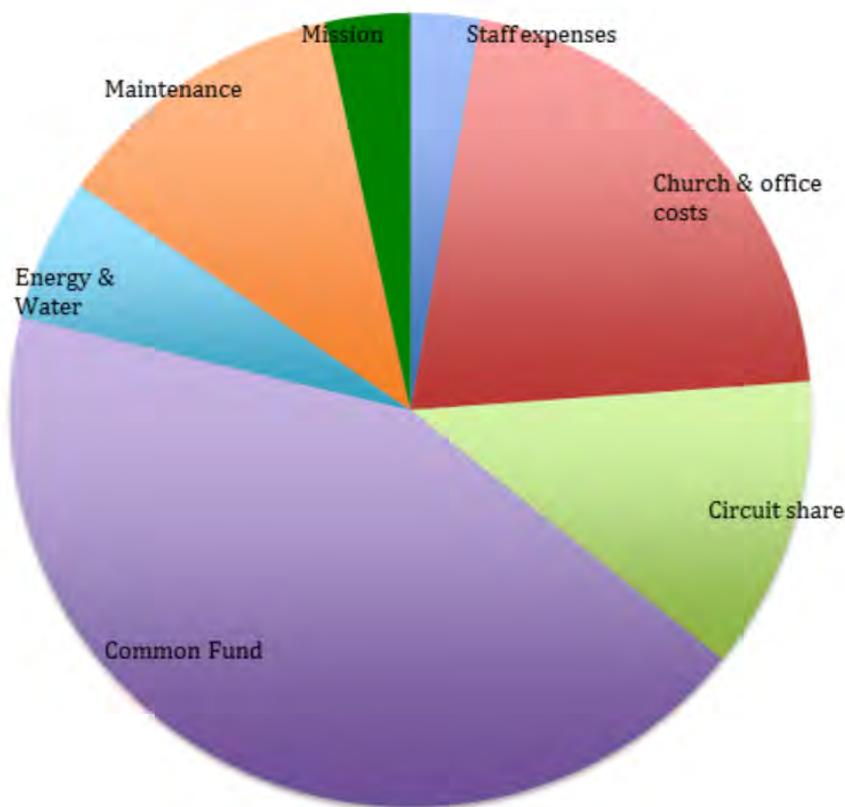
Above all we want everything we do, and all that we are, to be 'rooted and built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone.'



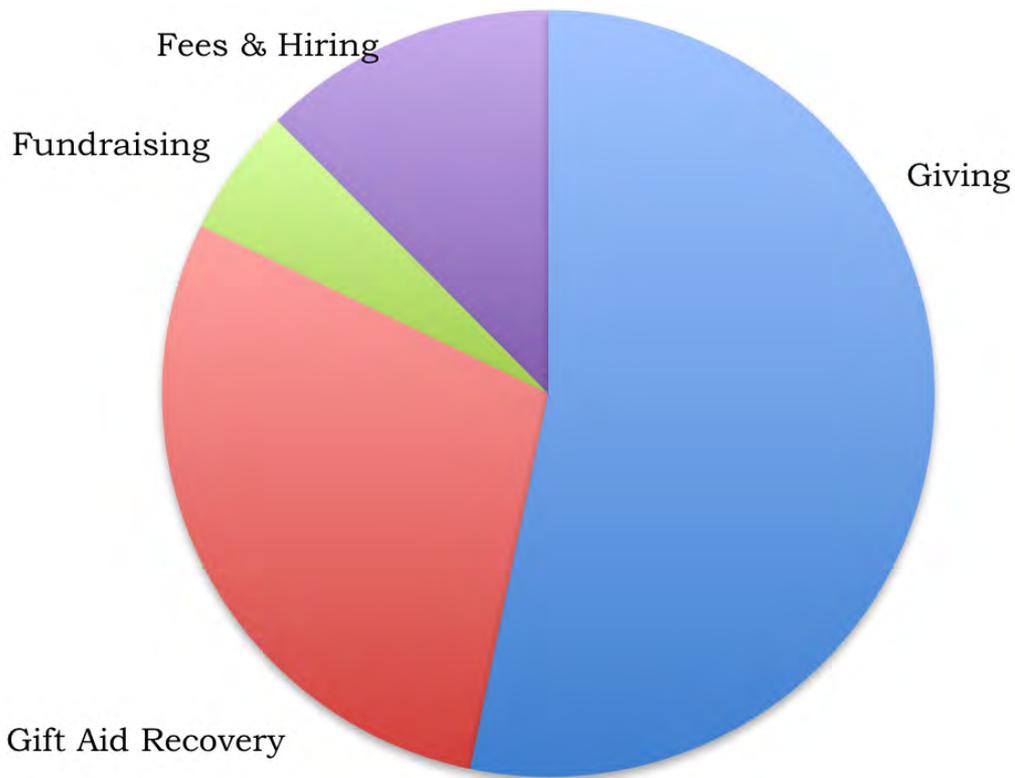
18. FINANCIAL & DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The church at Goodleigh is working to serve the community while remaining a place of prayer and worship. A need to modernise and improve the building for greater functionality and multi-use is being planned. A considerable investigation has been undertaken through gathering opinions from within the congregation and visiting local churches that have undergone renovation. These have been collated and will be discussed at a future Church Council meeting.

EXPENDITURE 2016
£20021



INCOME 2016
£32723



Goodleigh United Church has been able to pay its share to the Common Fund and Methodist Circuit over the years through generous giving and community fund raising events. Maintenance, repairs and improvements to the church building are a considerable part of the expenditure. The proposed Development Project will involve significant fund-raising through grant applications and working with the community. The Gift Aid reflected in this chart is for 2014/15/16 and therefore higher than in a single year.

19. WHAT WE CAN OFFER OUR NEW VICAR

- Holy Trinity has a collegiate leadership team who share the oversight of the church and is well supported by a strong administrative team;
- both of the above release the incumbent of the parish to use his or her gifts in nurturing the congregations and engaging in mission and evangelism;
- mission is at the heart of all we do and both churches support mission endeavours; the laity have a strong sense of ownership and take responsibility for mission activities;
- both churches are in good financial positions with an ethos of giving to mission both within the parish and to other partners and organisations;
- the new incumbent will have the opportunity to grow two thriving congregations with the possibility of planting a new congregation elsewhere in the Holy Trinity parish;
- the modern vicarage is a short walk from Holy Trinity church - please see Property Information provided by the Diocesan property Services for details.

