



Members of our school choir-club, led by Richard & Jacky, perform "Gladys Greatheart."

# TULSE HILL DEBT RISES AGAINS

Last year in this report, we announced that we were seeking to revive our ministry to those with money & debt worries which had to cease in 2015. On 20th March, **Tulse Hill Community Advice Centre** opened, and within the first two weeks we have had our first two clients. Joy Mantel, project leader, writes:

#### Our aims are four-fold:

• To help people concerned about financial issues by providing money management support.

• To support people who are in debt to find a realistic plan to live within their needs and to support them in dealing with their creditors.

• To empower local people by providing a place where they can find the information they need.

• To offer practical help from links with Acts 435, and food from the parish pantry & local food bank.

I knew from the beginning that I could not do this on my own, but God has provided a team of seven who were willing to train as debt-coaches, plus many others who have provided computer expertise, admin support, the wherewithal to get us up and running, and ongoing community links. During the preparation time we have become a team, by working together, finding solutions to problems and particularly during our role play day, by laughing together.

I am so thankful to God for all of our team members & supporters, their skills, and their willingness to use them

We have all passed the online FCA test, and it is wonderful to have actually started. A host of church members distributed flyers on a bitterly cold Sunday.

Our first client contacted us by phone a few days later, and our second came along to the Tuesday drop-in.

Thanks to Aileen and Jim our team of debt coaches: Andrew, Sarah, Nick, Adrian, Joy, Anne-Marie & Georgie. I see God's hand so clearly in bringing all this together. I think no one of us could have done this alone. Please pray for His continued blessing on this work. Joy Mantell



Could YOU help produce TRANSFORMATION next year? Or perhaps write up interviews for our parish newsletters? Talk with Richard if you're interested.

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### **APRIL 2018**

# Senior Citizens Why We Beep On Inaginity Last Summer Jacky and Aileen Tulse Hill "Imagining" in the

Every year the Senior Citizens Group (Seniors) goes on a seaside trip to a location normally chosen by them. We normally go in August as I personally believe there is a guarantee the weather will be just right; sunny and warm.

The chosen location in 2017 was Eastbourne a beautiful place with a fantastic beach and fish & chips.

I know the Seniors enjoyed themselves by just seeing them sitting on the beach having their picnic lunches with their family and friends; seaside activities or shopping.

The Seniors initially said they only wanted one coach! ... Don't ask me why! As over the years we have used two coaches due to the amount of people usually attend.

As the Seniors seaside trips the coaches are normally full with the Seniors; their family; friends and some church members (adults and children), having one coach did not really happened it became two in the end.

It is not an easy task organising the trip as there is a lot of input behind the scenes and it can be very challenging to make it happen; ensuring family friends are sitting together on the same coach and so on.

But with all the help from Derek and Lil it normally happens without any hiccups.

We are looking forward to this year 2018 Seaside trip to Brighton and we will definitely will be concentrating on two coaches! So if you want go... Come and see us early!

Jean E. Slue

Electoral

Last year there were 134 names on our electoral roll.

This year there are 144 names on our electoral roll.

- an increase of 10 - or 7.5%.

Joy Mantell



took a step back from their paid roles as Imagine Project Community Workers. But that doesn't mean Imagine has stopped!

"Imagine" is the process by which we can all engage with mission here in Tulse Hill. "Imagining" is the first crucial step in being prophetic!

God calls us to "imagine" what things would be like here if we could all see his reign holding sway. Then, when we can see that difference, we offer ourselves to him in reaching it.

Richard 

Trinity Social Club continues to grow from strength to strength. This is what members said when we had a brainstorm about what we liked...

"I enjoy the growing strength of the club and the enthusiasm that has built up." "I like the community spirit where the people in the church join the people

in the community."

"I like the sociability....and the washing up!"

"I like chatting to other people and the activities."

"I enjoy the mix of different food."

"I like to see everybody happy and chatting to each other."

"I have been coming to the club for the past five years and enjoy it when it is my turn to lead activities with history and astronomy. I enjoy being at the Social Club after being grounded for years of hell. I feel happy mixing with these people; it's a Christian place."

"I came after another club I attended closed down and I am very glad I did. I have spent too many years living alone up a hill."

"I enjoy the social connection. I have a lot of health problems and am lucky to be alive, I do not have to act here; I can just be myself."

"Well I just like coming here."

"I like the variety of activities and good value food."

"I like chopping vegetables."

"I enjoy people's company and I have met some good people instead of being alone as I was in the past."

"I enjoy everybody and like to see everyone take part and help each other out." Anne-Marie Harrison



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### CHURCH ON MISSION

It is really amazing to be part of a Church on Mission - and that's what Holy Trinity is. Just consider what's going on.

We're reaching out to local people in need through our new Community Advice Centre; we're trying to set up a brand new Toddler Church in the Undercroft on Sunday mornings; we're giving training, inspiration and positive direction to scores of people through our Community Build; we're being patient and analytical in revising our Mission Action Plan; plus we're doing all the other things churches do supporting local schools, building faith in local children and youth, reaching out through our seniors' fellowship, maintaining our awareness of the world-wide context of mission, running courses such as Alpha.

When we closed our CAP centre a couple of years back, some of us felt deflated; when Jacky and Aileen retired from working for our Imagine Project, others felt our mission would be shrinking. But when a church has compassion for those in need, and when we have our arms always open to include any and everyone, and when we know that we ourselves have been brought in by God's grace so that we owe it to others to share what has been shared with us... that's when new things bubble up as the Spirit leads.

Lots of people know Holy Trinity from seeing the spire. But what makes us a church on mission is being a community of people on fire with God's love. That's something special.





Once again we teamed up successfully with the Herne Hill Free Film Festival - both in May as part of their main fest, and at Christmas, showing Elf.

The Christmas Film was also an opportunity to collect food and cash for our local Food Bank.

This May, the festival has expanded significantly and although we are not ourselves hosting, we hope to be involved again at Christmas. Hopefully we'll also have our own film night in June, perhaps showing Queen of Katwe.

Richard



#### Thank you

First of all, thank you so much to all who have volunteered this year in some aspect of church life. Your many contributions are much appreciated!

#### The physical fabric of the church

At Church Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs), churchwardens need to provide a report on the physical fabric of the church, i.e. its building and grounds.

Our building is in good shape. Thank you to everyone who helps keep it that way, particularly Jim, our Operations Manager, who sorts out keys, external contractors, carpet cleaning, heating and lighting, PAT testing and a host of other facets of this side of church life. We would be lost without him!

Thanks too to Mary for regularly cleaning the church, to David for looking at health and safety issues, to the welcome team, first aiders, those who help with tea and coffee and cleaning communion cups and plates week by week and to those with other responsibilities.

#### **Everyone Benefits**

Richard

Do please remember that all of us benefit from a healthy and safe place of worship. Please take the same care of it as you would do your own home. If you are interested in getting more involved in helping look after it then please speak to Jim or to one of us.

#### The Straw Bale build

It is great to see our Straw Bale community building project take shape. Special thanks are due to Richard and Nicole for masterminding and coordinating the project, and to Calvin, Jean, Dominic, Nick, Jean, Lucie, Isabel, and the many other volunteers (both from within the church congregation and outside) who have willingly given up a lot of their free time and resources to contribute to this effort throughout the year.

Thanks also to everyone for your patience and restraint given the necessary restrictions on accessing our garden whilst the building work continues. And for putting up with so much timber in and around the church building. The team have been very conscientious about tidying and cleaning, but it's a massive project!

#### **Building Works**

The trick to keeping buildings in good shape is to sort out issues before they become significant. This can require careful planning, particularly for a building as tall as our church.

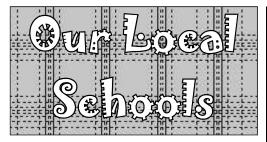
We've recently had some work done to the lightning conductors. Later this year we are hoping to have some other repairs done, some probably at relatively high altitude.

The exact timing will be chosen bearing in mind progress on the straw bale building.

Thanks to Anne-Marie's vision we've also improved our undercroft toilets and at last separated off our kitchen washing up area down there.

The mandatory 5 year testing and inspection of the church electrical systems was also successfully carried including minor remedial works"

> Fay Morris and Malcolm Kemp Churchwardens



It's been another good year for Holy Trinity School, although not without its challenges. Our recent Ofsted report acknowledged real progress as we continue to chase the all-important "outstanding" accolade. However, falling rolls across many Lambeth Primary Schools have hit our finances hard, putting extra pressure on staff and governors. Some long-standing members of staff have moved onto other things this year, but the team as a whole remain highly motivated.

#### Assemblies, Visits & Clubs

Richard continues to take most of the weekly assemblies, with Jacky filling in and helping Nick learn the ropes. This year Nick will be doing them throughout the summer term.

For the fourth year running, Jacky and Richard ran a successful after school choir club (see front page picture), and the school continues to organise class visits to the church, along with other local schools.

#### St Martin's.

It's such a joy to see Mrs Stanislaus get into her stride as the Head of St Martin's as the school gains strength via her new key appointments. One of these has been a new lay chaplain, Esther Moorey, who has taken some of the burden off us at Holy Trinity whilst still maintaining a very good partnership with us.

#### **Christmas Experience & Remembrance**

Once again we ran Christmas Experience for classes from Holy Trinity and Fenstanton. It's particularly encouraging to serve the needs of a non-church school and build up our relationship with them.

As you pray for our parish schools, remember too City Heights Academy where we don't have many links, and Elm Court School where we continue to take a special Remembrance Service each year not forgetting other local schools just beyond the parish boundaries.



#### **Our Aim**

Our aim is to be channels of God's transforming love, here in Tulse Hill and ultimately throughout the world. We want to see God's Kingdom come, the love and lordship of Jesus proclaimed and lived out, and many people becoming His followers and disciples.

The Anglican Church encourages its congregations to develop Mission Action Plans (MAPs) to help them focus to how best to achieve their mission goals. At Holy Trinity we are currently refreshing our MAP (the previous one was developed several years ago).

#### The Five Marks of Mission

The Anglican Church encourages its congregations to develop Mission Action Plans (MAPs) to help them focus to how best to achieve their mission goals. At Holy Trinity we are currently refreshing our MAP (the previous one was developed several years ago), bearing in mind the Anglican Church's Five Marks of Mission.

We've tabulated the ministries our church is involved with that involve 'missional' activities. There are many such ministries! We've identified which Marks each one relates to and how effective each ministry is, both amongst existing church members and amongst others.

#### **Congregational survey**

We've also surveyed the congregation to find out, for example, why people started coming to Holy Trinity and why they continue to come. Insights include:

- The top reason why people *started* to come was personal invitation. Quite a few also first came because they just walked past or had links through Holy Trinity Primary School.
- The most important reason people *stay* coming is because they feel welcomed by church members, closely followed by the worship and the sermons
- The church has a strong community flavour. The large majority live, or have lived, within 10 minutes' travel, and around half of our members have been attending for longer than 10 years.

So please do continue to invite your friends, neighbours, colleagues and others to church, so that they can find out more about Jesus and experience God's love. Please continue to pray for God's Kingdom to come, here and elsewhere, to His glory! And please welcome newcomers.

#### **Our Next steps**

The Anglican Church recognises that organisations are typically more likely to see their objectives realised if they prioritise their activities. We haven't yet concluded this stage of our MAP.

Please do share with us your views on what ministries we should focus on most. One thing we would not want to do is to close off doors to God's Holy Spirit. If you have a vision (which you think is from God) to see a particular ministry start or develop then please let us on the MAP Team - or Richard - know so that we can figure out how best to develop and nurture your vision.

Richard

Stuart Robertson and Malcolm Kemp



South Lambeth Deanery has been going through a bit of a gear change over the last few years, seeing it's members getting involved in a number of initiatives and engaging with issues facing the deanery and the wider church.

In the summer South Lambeth Deanery combined with North Lambeth Deanery to run a stall at Lambeth Country Show. It was an amazing two days of people from Church of England churches across all of Lambeth running activities and giving out information all our churches. Look out for more information about it this year and look for the G o d ♥Lambeth banner or the @GodheartLambeth twitter account.

The Diocese, under the Bishop's instruction, is investigating how to best support congregation members to fulfil their Christian lives throughout the whole week. Holy Trinity has been asked to be a pilot church in this and three of us - David Wright, Gloria Otu-Simon, and myself - are the link people.

The first part of this process was a questionnaire exploring what we do, don't do, and could do better to support everyone to live out our Christian values in our "Monday to Saturday" lives.

Adam West

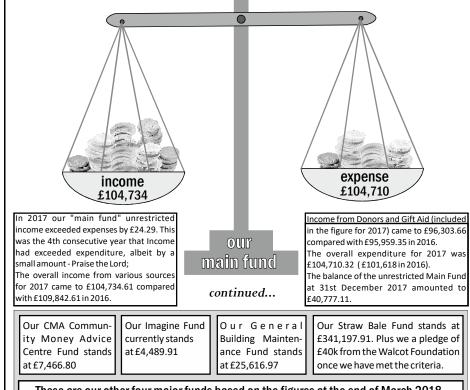


On the First Tuesday of the month men from church gather for a meal and a drink at the Crown and Sceptre pub at the top of Brixton Hill.

We've had some great evenings talking and discussing all manner of topics often revolving around our faith. First Tuesday is a place where it is easier to open up and get beyond the surface conversations that often occur after church the "how are you", "I'm fine" conversations.

I would encourage more men to come along, discover connections with men you have been sitting next to at church for years and share what makes your faith important to you.

# **Continued Blessing**



These are our other four major funds based on the figures at the end of March 2018. We also have a Youth Ministry Project Fund of £914.38 as at 31st March 2018.

A full set of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017 are at the back of church.

Our Main Unrestricted Fund financial situation continued its upward trend since the deficit of £12,000 in 2013. In 2014 income exceeded expenditure by £3,298, in 2015 income exceeded expenditure by £12,585, in 2016 income exceeded expenditure by £8,223.93 and in 2017 income exceeded expenditure by £24.29, for which we give thanks to God. This is largely due to:

- I) A generous level of annual giving being maintained by church members including Gift Aid Tax Refunds.
- ii) Receipt of Income from lettings of the undercroft and main church auditorium.
- iii) An unusual increase in the number of Funerals and Wedding which resulted in the receipt of more fees.
- iv) Regular robust monitoring of Expenditure both current and in the future;

We would like to say a big thank you to all our church family who have given so generously throughout the year.

It is hoped that in the future we have an income from our new Neighbourhood Hub, but this could still be quite a way off-especially if we end up having to take out a loan to complete the building of it.

The message, therefore, is: please keep on prayerfully reviewing and increasing your giving so that we can continue to fulfil our ministry and build a much-needed financial safety net over a long period.

Adam West

Georgie Snyder, Jim Maddox, Richard Dormandy.



So, we asked ourselves how can we erect the frames..? These are not small! The posts are around five and a half metres high and nearly half a metre wide! The beams, when assembled, are nearly ten metres long!

Thus began our journey into the world of genie lifts, telehandlers, cranes, Richard's many ingenious ideas (!), and scaffolding... We are now incredibly educated in how not to do it.

The more we investigated the more we realised that our site simply isn't conducive with heavy machinery, we also realised that to utilise a crane efficiently we'd have to have all the frames preassembled, and we just don't have the room for that! There was also the cost implication to think about - £10,000 minimum, which could easily be doubled if things didn't go according to plan – and they rarely do!

The answer to our prayers came after numerous discussions with our scaffolder Dave. He said, "You've really got me thinking about this now. It's beginning to bug me. I go to sleep thinking about it. I wake up thinking about it."

After several designs which (you guessed it) weren't going to work, Dave's team have now erected scaffolding over the whole area, to create a working platform. In this platform, Dave's men then left gaps for us to build up the posts. All we had to do was to get the massive timbers up there and lower them down – by hand. It seemed impossible.

However, Dave's men (Shawn, Danny & another Dave), hoisted up the elements of the posts making the wood seem weightless, and then Shawn with measured control gently lowered them down into place – while our team secured, levelled and bolted them into place.

Later, when they had gone but we still needed to get some of our largest pieces up, Richard, Hendy and Calvin rigged up a winch (one of the many tools and devices Richard has salted away in his garage) and this did the job as well.

We've currently four sets of posts up, with three of the 10m long crossbeams in place, more scaffolding will be in place soon, and we'll then continue to erect the frames, securing and hanging in the joists. We'll then swiftly move onto the first floor and roof.

And very soon – the straw will arrive – and with it another exciting chapter..!

Our team of volunteers have been amazing, with special mention in recent weeks going to Calvin, Nick, George, Dominic, Lee, Ines, Darren, but so many others as well over the course of the year, as well as our fantastic cooks, Dell and Lil. (Richard adds: having Nicole on board as an assistant (assistant? I think she's the boss isn't she?) has made a huge difference. Coordinating volunteers is just a fraction of what she does; her energy and commitment is legendary!)

Nicole Lyon (with a little bit by Richard)

### **Modern Day Foot Washing**

In recent months, Youth Church have been following the same programme as adult church, looking at discipleship.

We have been using the excellent Urban Saints online resource 'Energize', which has numerous themed plans to help our leaders take our youth through teaching programmes.

One particular highlight of this was the week on service. It was great to look together at how Jesus came to serve rather than be served, and our young people followed his example (and set us all an example!) by cleaning the terribly muddy boots from the straw bale build!

During the session, we learned about Jesus washing feet - but washing feet isn't really relevant to today's context (in Jesus' day they wore sandals and got very dusty). But all the mud on the boots definitely needed cleaning! So we cleaned them as a modern-day version of foot washing.

Our young people (and their leaders!) scrubbed those boots until they shone...

An interesting comment made by one of them was that he really had to swallow his pride to do such an undignified task. He didn't like it at first, but eventually got into it and learned to serve.

As leaders, we were all so impressed by how our youth got stuck in, and hopefully it was a memorable way for us all to learn

together about service ... and to actually serve!

Many thanks to all our Youth Church leaders & helpers, who serve week by week.

Nick Smith



Women at H714 The women's group have met

every other month this year with a mixture of women and a varied group size.

We have mainly been meeting in a social context this year, often over a glass of wine and nibbles, endeavouring to get to know each other better.

These meetings have taken the form of meeting in the pub, a film evening and a crafting evening where everyone brought something different that they were working on. We all shared our projects and plan to meet again for more evenings like this in the near future.

We plan to meet in June for another Women's breakfast.

Trinity Kids

Two of our Trailblazers tell us what they like about being part of Trinity Kids.

I enjoy Trailblazers as you can connect with a large group of children your age on a holy level, whilst enjoying yourself.

The Trailblazers class opens windows of opportunities for activities, performances and exciting summer trips which you can take part in or contribute to.

I feel that in Trailblazers we can be ourselves without being judged or segregated whilst learning the ways of our Saviour Jesus Christ and his father God. Tyla Brown.

At Trinity Kids the people who teach us inspire us to learn more about Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and the Bible.

All the teachers make us have fun and while we have fun we learn as well. It feels like school because we learn something new every day; so thank-you.

I love Trinity Kids because our teachers go out of their way to make sure we understand God's Word. Everyone learns in life, whether you are young or old, and we still learn new things about God.

I have learnt a lot about Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and the Bible; so much that it has become a part of me. The teachers at Trinity Kids want to push us as far as they can with knowledge of the Bible so that we can remember scriptures that will help us in our daily lives.

Trinity Kids is a place where you can learn with your own friends.

Danielle Akintunde.

Richard.



Since our last Annual Meeting:

- 12 baptisms have taken place (last four years: 19, 11, 7, 16).
- 4 weddings celebrated (last two years: 3, 10; 5 planned for 2018).

## What has PCC been up to?

Most of the groups and activities you read about in this report will have been overseen by the PCC.

As your PCC (Parish Church Council) we are responsible for overseeing all aspects of our church fellowship, building and finances, including supporting and encouraging our leadership and ministry teams.

There are always plenty of new ideas in our church for improvements or new things. Many of these come to the PCC for discussion and support and we hope that you've benefited from some of them over the past year.

#### Some Highlights

We held our 2016 Weekend at Home and concert, which was a time for extended fellowship.

We've put more detail into our Mission Action Plan (MAP), which identifies our local mission priorities.

We've supported Joy and the Community Money team of volunteers with their detailed preparations for our debt counselling centre.

We have had updates on our many links with our local schools including hosting school services and concerts in our church. At the same time we have continued to support our mission partners both local (Prison Fellowship and Operation Smile) and further afield in France (Youth with a Mission), Ghana (Teshie Orphanage) and Latin America (Peace & Hope). Staff Changes

After 12 years of leading our Imagine project Aileen and Jacky retired in June, but remain very active in our fellowship. The principles of Imagine continue to be included within our Mission Action Plan.

In July Nick Smith joined us as our new curate, and has quickly become part of our fellowship.

We've also had passing through: Emily Croucher (XLP placement) helping our youth leaders and Sarah Corlett on her Southwark Reader training placement.

#### Thank You

It's such a blessing to see the purpose and enthusiasm of all our groups and their activities. On behalf of the PCC, thank you to everyone that has been involved with running these.

And a huge thank you to everyone who has served on the PCC this last year and for all your contributions, in particular to those PCC members who come to the end of their term this year.

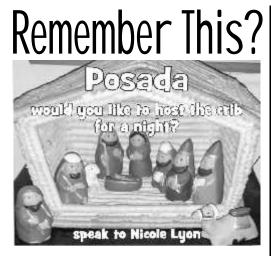
> David Jowsey (PCC Secretary)

### And the winners are...

Our straw bale building project won two more awards this year: Towards the end of 2017 it was named "the stand out winner" in the Church Times Green Church award ; and early in 2018 we were cited as "one of Aviva Community Fund's key projects"

It was a bit ominous when we got to Lambeth Palace for the awards as some people were saying that they already knew some of the award winners. Since we hadn't heard, we thought we must be "also rans". How wrong we were!





Hosting our travelling crib at Christmas



collecting baths for processing clay



Weekend at Home Meal & Concert



Aileen & Jacky's "thankyou" cake



Our Annual Church Meeting (which includes both the APCM and the Meeting of Parishioners) will take place on Sunday 29th April during our 10.30 service.

We will elect the new PCC, there will be some verbal reports and a chance to ask questions, along with the Vicar's Vision.



at Holy Trinity

#### Want to bring your toddler to church?

(but wonder if they'll make it through the service)

Coming to church can be hard work for toddlers and their parents. That's why at Holy Trinity we're starting up a brand new Sunday Service especially for Tots. It's called "Trinity Treasures". Effectively, we're hoping to plant a whole new congregation, which is no small ambition.

This will take the place of our current creche, and we hope that those who currently come to creche will continue to come to Trinity Treasures. But we also hope that, but by bit, we will bring in new members to Holy Trinity. Maybe to start with, they will only come to Trinity Treasures; but maybe some will also want to join in with what's happening upstairs.

The Service will take place at the same time as our main one - starting a bit later with a cuppa from 11am, and finishing a bit earlier at 11.45. We will meet in the Undercroft where the creche has been meeting until now.

We have new carpets, a special treasure box, and a new structure. Each week there will be a Bible Story, an activity, a song and a prayer specially for under 3s - plus free play, friends, and juice!

Parents and carers are welcome to stay, or they can go up to adult church and we will bring the children up later.

It's a great new chance for children and parents to learn about God together, and to meet new friends - and to grow the church from the bottom up. Please pray for this new venture, and talk to Richard, Angela, Kuntumi, Jacky, Rachel, Charmaine or Fiona if you'd like to be involved or find out more.

Richard

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The job of the PCC is to initiate, to manage and develop the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. This involves prayer, planning and overseeing buildings and finances. We meet about 9 times a year.

Amy Grant Adrian Garden \* Hendy Layne \* Jenny Dunn Jenny Sharpe Stuart Robertson Jamie Lobban Nicole Lyon \* Jenny Sharpe \* Jim Maddox David Jowsey Georgie Snyder

Some PCC members are directly elected, others attend by holding another office such as clergy or church wardens. The term of office is 3 years. Below is a list of current members. Those starred end their term this year.

	Adam West * Joy Mantell * Vacant	( Deanery Synod Rep ) ( Deanery Synod Rep ) ( Deanery Synod Rep )
	Malcolm Kemp * Fay Morris *	( Church Warden & VC) ( Church Warden )
(Operations Manager) (Secretary)	William Sharpe Richard Dormandy Gloria Otu-Simon	( NSM clergy ) ( Vicar & Chair ) ( Reader - co-opted )

(Treasurer)