

Appendix One

St Mary, Hook-with-Warsash

2015 Informal Reports



Annual Parochial Church Meeting
19th April 2016



These Informal Reports do not form part of the Statutory Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

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FAMILIES WORK

2015-2016 has been another fun and successful year for Families work, with a few changes and developments taking place.

Still, our Stay and Play group is thriving, with many regular families attending on a weekly basis. There are also a number of families who have been coming more on the odd occasion, but it is a group where everyone says that they feel very welcome and comfortable. We appreciate someone from the ministry team visiting most weeks. A number of families have had their babies baptized since being at the group. Whilst we have never had to turn people away from the group due to numbers, we do not need to further advertise due to the space and the numbers of people attending.

Tots Praise continues to run on the second Thursday of each month. There is a team of clergy who run Tots Praise on a rota basis, and the great majority of families move seamlessly from Stay and Play in the hall into the church.

Messy Church also runs on the second Thursday of each month (with the exception of Good Friday). Similar to Stay and Play, there are many regular families; some occasional and some who have only attended once. Invitations are offered to all local schools. Since October, when Messy Church was advertised to the new reception year group, Messy Church numbers have increased, with many more boys coming along and enjoying the crafts and activities on offer. When planning Messy Church it is important to bear this in mind.

The Families Worker role is developing with the increased hours. With increased hours, the role is maintaining the success of Stay and Play, Tots Praise and Messy Church and developing other mission opportunities by meeting with other church leaders in other parishes to discern what activities to offer. The families worker has increased visibility within the school, by regularly joining the children for collective worship (and now leading some sessions), attending prayer meetings, liaising with the children about their faith and going to classes to talk about a Christian theme.

There is a closer link with the families worker and the Sunday school team who together developed a fun, short and action packed service called Crazy Church. There will be more one-off services for families in the future.

Thank you to all involved in Families work- practical support, love and prayers.

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PASTORAL GROUP

'I was sick & you visited me' Matthew 25:36

Members:- Revd. Nicky-Sue Terry, Eva Upward, Carol Day, Valerie Edmonds, Sarah Sands, Sally Clear.

Mission Priority / aims:- To provide pastoral care/support for Parishioners as well as for those who are ill, housebound and requesting Home Communion .

We are a small group working to provide pastoral care for our Parishioners. We meet once a month to pray as well as to discuss those who need visiting, any issues arising and to allocate visits to team members.

Each member of the pastoral team has signed a confidentiality form and been cleared by DBS, as this is an important aspect of our work. We use the prayer list as a source of referrals in addition to concerns raised by parishioners of folk in need of pastoral care. Requests for visits can also be received by the church office.

We are aware that parishioners not on the pastoral care team, out of Christian compassion, are visiting those whose needs are imminent; we still need to make sure there is no duplication. Referrals can also be made to pastoral care team co-ordinator, Eva Upward, by e-mail, and she will allocate visits.

The group has developed its practice over the last year as we engage with those who are in need. Each month we review each person who was on the previous month's notes and agree together when our support is no longer needed. We have many demands on our time and have to constantly review where need is greatest.

We may ask the PCC to give this group a small budget for training as well as for items such as stationery/possibly petrol money. We will continue to develop our skills in pastoral care and bereavement counselling and will always refer to outside agencies if we feel it is appropriate. Training is undertaken as it becomes available and is appropriate.

We need the continuing support of the community, lots of prayer and mutual support.

The pastoral support group

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COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Group was set up as one of our Mission Priorities to coordinate, draw together and improve Communications both within Church as well as the wider Community.

The group has met together five times during the year and is made up of those involved in areas such as the Church Office, Administration, Parish News-Advertising, Editing, Distribution, Social Events, Services and Rosters, Publicity and Website/Social Media. The aim of the group is to plan, co-ordinate and publicise matters far-enough in advance to ensure that we communicate in a timely and effective manner.

I would like to thank all of the team involved in The Parish News and in particular Brenda St.John who has retired from coordinating the Advertising after many years. They work behind the scenes each month, and quite often with very tight deadlines. Come rain or shine the Parish News is available the first weekend of each month. However, more editorial items for inclusion are always welcome. The deadline is 15th of each month for publication in the next edition.

The Church website which was completely rebuilt in 2014 has continued to evolve during 2015. The result now is a more user friendly and easily updated website, with further development planned. The text of some sermons are now available online (when there is a demand, and where they are made available by the clergy). We are exploring the technology to be able to audio-record sermons of major services and festivals in the future for those people who are unable to attend a service. The Church and Hall Calendar are available to view on-line as are copies of Pew sheets and duty rosters. Several web pages are currently under review and you may find one or two anomalies on pages. If so, please email any suggestions to webmaster@stmarywarsash.org.uk. We are also experimenting with social media and now maintain a presence on both Facebook and Twitter. On-line candles are lit after Baptisms on the Church of England Christenings site, and 'liked' via our FaceBook page. Our Facebook posts can reach more than 1,000 people depending upon the content of the post. We would like to expand this area, but resources are required to help with the management and control of this aspect of our communications.

Iain Wilkie

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BELL RINGERS

The church bells are rung for approximately 10 minutes before the 10.00am and 6.30pm services using the tubular bells followed by the calling bell. They are also rung before and after many weddings.

We are a fairly small team – there are currently 10 of us on the rota. It would be lovely to have some new names to add to this rota – the more the merrier!! Full training would be given – although not much is needed!!

CHARITABLE GIVING

Each month at least one Sunday is set aside for supporting a particular charity. The sub-committee prayerfully decides which ones we might support for the following year. We try to include a wide selection, including medical, family, disabled, social, children, elderly, those specifically Christian and those targeting home, local and overseas. They are then researched over the internet and brief descriptions sent to the PCC for their approval in November.

Following the PCC's decision, this information is sent to the Parish News for inclusion in each appropriate issue. This information is also included in the Prayer Diary.

In good time before each Charity Sunday a display about the charity of the month is put up at the back of the church. This is obtained throughout the year by contacting each charity for their display material, making sure it arrives in time, or using material downloaded from their website.

In 2015 we supported 14 charities.

When received from the Treasurer, a cheque for the amount raised is sent off to each charity, and a receipt obtained.

There are now brown envelopes available at the back of the church for people to donate at any time throughout the month, or during our Charity Sunday services.

The total raised in 2015 through monthly charity collections was £2,739.15

Thank you to everyone who supports our charitable giving.

Jenny Cox

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CHURCH CHOIR

The Church Choir continues to progress well, they are in attendance at most morning and all evening services. They have also sung at a number of Weddings throughout the year. The numbers are good when everyone is in attendance, and this year we have had two new members join us – Jenny Palmer (Soprano) and Stephen Boyes (Tenor).

If you enjoy singing then do come and join us, it doesn't matter whether you are a Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass voice, you would be made most welcome. Choir practice is on Friday evenings at 6.45pm for an hour.

CHURCH CLEANERS AND BRASS CLEANERS

Our team of cleaners continues to shrink. This year Pat Tanner decided it was time to take a back seat. She has been a valued member of the team for many years and we have a lot to thank her for. I have already been told that another team member will be retiring at the end of this year. It will mean that each cleaner will be called upon every five weeks. Each month an appeal is placed in the Parish News for more volunteers but so far to no avail. The brass cleaners are a little more fortunate as there are nine volunteers to spread the load, although one has decided this will be her last year.

CHURCH FLOWERS

We have had another enjoyable year decorating the church each week. There are four people that I can call upon regularly and at the main festivals Margaret Adams still enjoys helping us. On certain special occasions we also have arrangements on the window sills provided by volunteers from different groups within the village. The church is popular with wedding couples who are charged a small fee for flowers. The remaining funds come from people who wish to dedicate the flowers for either a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. The flower fund is fairly low at present but I am confident that there will be enough donations to keep us going throughout the year.

CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall is a popular venue for both regular and occasional users. Overall the bookings have increased in the year with occasional bookings slightly down but more than compensated by regular hirings increasing with the Dance School moving from an

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occasional hirer to regular during the year. In addition we are in discussions with "The University of the Third Age" who are setting up a new group in Warsash and are likely to become a new regular user.

The Church Hall is subject to a maintenance programme and as part of this strategy the Church Hall Lounge was decorated during the year. In addition book shelves were installed in the Church Hall Lounge which has freed up space in the Church Hall Office. The gutters and down pipes have also recently been cleared of leaves and moss.

I would like to thank the Church Hall Management Committee for their support over the year and Roger Clear for his assistance with various maintenance problems encountered during the year. At the APCM three of our committee will be standing down, Mike Ford, Anne Ford and myself. I would like to thank Mike and Anne for their sterling service to this committee over many years.

Nick St John, Chairman Church Hall Management Committee

COFFEE POT

Coffee Pot is a friendly and supportive small group for all, including those with young children, meeting every Tuesday morning during term time between 10:00 and 11:30 at Brenda Bottomley's house - 6, Sandycroft, Warsash. We are an informal group starting with a cup of tea/coffee and a general chat and then at around 10:30ish we have a sprinkling of Bible study and meditations finishing with a time of prayer. At present we are studying Nick Fawcett's book 'Grappling with God'. One of the strengths of our little group is the fun and fellowship we have together and willingness to support and uphold each other in good times and in bad.

We are always delighted to welcome new members (whether part of St Mary's or not) on an occasional or regular basis - please call Brenda Bottomley (01489 582093) for more details.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

I can report another productive year in the Churchyard. We have not undertaken any major projects but just those smaller jobs that keep the area an attractive and dignified area for visitors.

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We meet every 3rd Saturday in the month from usually March through to September. We achieved our usual yew tree clip in September, a task that is always the culmination of our year.

Whilst jobs on this Saturday are many and varied (helpers simply choose what they would like to do) we also have a dedicated team numbering around 10, who take responsibility for trimming the grass throughout the season in a specified plot. However, further additional help would be most welcome with mowing the Churchyard.

We will of course always welcome more volunteers be it on a Saturday or to look after the cutting of a plot. Give me a ring if you are interested or just turn up on the 3rd Saturday at about 9-9.30 ish.

May I thank all of our volunteers and of course Margaret Adams who looks after us so well with tea, coffee and cake following our efforts.

Mike Ford

JIGSAW

This was started some six years ago as a potential morning out for the lonely and sad of the local community to meet others in similar situations, with the opportunity of discussing their fears and problems with people who have had similar experiences in their lifetime. It was also to provide their home carers the opportunity of a break to attend to their own affairs. The jigsaw puzzle was to provide an optional focal point.

Some of those who have benefited still remain with us and have taken up with the idea so we now show up to five puzzles at each session. These are partially completed so some get finished and are replaced before the following month.

Most puzzles are purchased from charity shops to where they are eventually returned after they have been passed to those unable to join us, or exchanged with other interested groups, preferably outside our catchment area.

I provide and prepare the puzzles ; my daughter, Wendy Wood, makes the cakes; Chris Yates offers the refreshments, not only to those attending the session, but to others working around the Church or visiting the graveyard. On a typical day we may provide for up to 20 persons.

The venue is the Church Hall Lounge, on THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH between 10am and Midday. (On the occasions when the Lounge is needed for other purposes, alternative arrangements are made).

All are welcome to drop-in, if only for refreshments. There is no charge.

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Roger Page. (01489 601283).

MEN'S GROUP

This group has been meeting regularly at St. Mary's for some years, led ably and inspirationally by Rev. George Gebauer. At its meetings discussion took place around topics of interest at the time or what needed to be addressed within the group. However, George felt the need to pass the baton of leadership on. So we owe an enormous vote of thanks to George for all that he has done within this area of ministry. Rev Bill Day and Bob Bottomley took on the challenge of re-energising and re-directing the group. Towards the end of the summer term an open meeting was held at which the way forward was discussed with ideas being taken forward for the future.

As a result the following meetings took place:-

In October - Mike Ford, our Mayor and much loved member of our church came and talked about his role as Mayor and how that sat with his faith.

In November -A skittles evening was held at the Crofton Pub in Stubbington, this was opened to ladies as well.

In December - Phil Rutt from the Fareham and Gosport Basics Bank, came and talked about its work.

All of the meetings were interesting and often challenging. Numbers attending have varied but are usually around the 12 – 15 mark. This is an improvement on what was happening previously and the group is growing in confidence about its own identity and the way forward. All very positive, however, it is still fragile in terms of its support and top heavy with greybeards. The challenge for us is how to get more younger males involved, and how as men we might make a more significant contribution to the life of the church and local community.

Please pray for us, this is important work, men are notoriously difficult to get involved in this way and our work needs as much help and encouragement as we can get.

Bill Day & Bob Bottomley.

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HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY & PRAYER LINK TEAMS

The two Prayer Link Teams have been very active over the last year with around 50 requests for prayers the majority relating to medical issues. The teams have received encouraging feedback from some of those who have requested prayers. This has highlighted the need for this important ministry and our continuing commitment to support those in need of prayers for whatever reason.

The Prayer Ministry Team have continued to support all our communion services and have been provided at other services when required. The awareness of the Team has gradually increased over time and their availability to our congregation when the need arises. The team over the year have supported the Healing Services which are planned into our Service rota and this has involved a variety of Spiritual approaches.

Finally we should like to thank all those involved in these ministries for their hard work and dedication over the last year without which this good work would not be possible.

If you wish to know more about these Ministries Nick St John and Rita Collins would be pleased to hear from you as we would like to add to these teams if possible. We can be contacted on the numbers below:

Nick St John Telephone: 01489574589 (Healing and Prayer Ministry Team)

LAY MINISTERS

This has been a busy year for June and me.

June divides her precious time between her family, her duties as chaplain to the sea cadets at HMS Tormentor and our church.

She helps with 'Messy church' and 'Stay and Play' both of which have grown considerably.

At Christmas she was involved in the crib services. All this takes dedication, preparation and commitment to our Lord.

God continues to bless our ministry here at St. Mary's. We are both involved in preaching, leading services as well as leading intercessions during services.

We continue to develop closer links with Hook academy. This involves leading collective worship in school as well as leading a prayer session at the end of each half term. We also attend school services in church at major Christian festivals to support our part time

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clergy. These events, among other items, are discussed half termly at school by the Forging Links committee of which we are both members.

Remembrance Sunday has become an established and very well attended event at the school where children are involved in the national Act of Remembrance. There are a number of activities laid on to make the youngsters reflect on war past and present and its effect on people.

We both attend Ministry team meetings once a month. This means that we work closely with all our clergy.

June and I get involved whenever there is an opportunity for outreach/mission. One such occasion was 'Crazy church', a first time venture which was led by our family worker but ably supported by June.

Following on from last year's LYCiG training course, I am now part of the leader group, involved in the planning and eventual delivery of this initiative to the congregation.

I am also part of a small but dedicated pastoral support group. We endeavour to visit people who are unwell. Part of our aim is also to administer Home Communion.

We pray that we may continue to serve God and our community.

Eva Upward

MOTHERS' UNION

During 2015 our membership stood at 12 including 1 new member and 4 indoor members. Average attendance at Branch meetings was 10 members. Bridget Patter an Indoor Member moved out of the area. At the Mothering Sunday Service in March 2015 we commissioned our new officers and officially welcomed Rev Nicky-Sue Terry to our Branch.

We enjoyed a range of speakers including Sheila King Indoor Members Co-ordinator; Rev Anne Boggust who led us in a Maundy Thursday Meditation; Brenda and Nick St John on the Titanic; Carol Day who spoke about her daughter's calling with the Missionaries of Charity and Rev Mike Terry who shared his thoughts on Icons in prayer.

In March we welcomed the Worldwide President Lynne Tembey to the Diocese. Two members of our branch attended the Festival Service in Portsmouth Cathedral.

We celebrated the annual Wave of Prayer Service at St Mary's in June. Members attended the MU Advent Service at Alverstoke Church in December.

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During 2015 we have been gently promoting Mothers Union. We hosted an afternoon tea for church volunteers and at our Strawberry Tea we welcomed members from other branches, the community and church. We also enjoyed having the children and parents from Stay and Play with us.

At the Warsash Festival we distributed balloons and goody bags containing information about MU including a bible storybook and a lollipop. At the Christmas Market we promoted MU with goody bags and balloons. We also have monthly articles in the Warsash Parish News and an MU page in St Mary's Parish website.

Members enjoyed an afternoon tea at The Haven in Titchfield. We raised funds for AFIA. Members are also involved in the Parish at Messy Church, Stay and Play, distribution of Baptism Cards and knitting for the QA Hospital. We began a new project knitting Twiddlemuffs for patients with Dementia. We donated two muffs to the Dementia Café at Fareham Community Hospital. Members are still knitting. Kathleen Walters celebrated her 100th birthday in July.

I would like to thank you all for your support and all who have contributed in any way. We look forward to 2016 as we celebrate 140 years of Mothers Union. From small beginnings we have grown into a global membership of over 4 million members. Let us celebrate the present and be inspired for the future.

Jean Buckles, Branch Leader

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group continues to support the monthly 10am Family Worship and Creative Communion services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays respectively, together with occasional special services. It's a great joy to be able to contribute to the Spiritual life at St Mary's by offering a more contemporary style of music to accompany modern songs (and hymns), and enrich congregational worship. Our one prayer is that our praise and worship will be pleasing to God and draw us ever closer into His presence with intimacy and awe.

The Worship Today songbook remains our main resource for the 10 am service and has served us well for many years now. As indicated last year, we have been reviewing the new 30th Anniversary Edition of Mission Praise (published Jan 15 and containing 1400 songs/hymns!), and this would provide a suitable replacement for both WT and Mission Praise 1. As a congregation we need to decide if we should purchase a new songbook or move to projected words to allow us to access the outpouring of new worship material. I'd be interested in hearing your views.

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Numerically the Music Group continues to flourish with Josephine on keyboard, Jade, Penny, and Bob on acoustic guitar and Steve on bass. Our orchestral instrumentalists include Elena (Flute), Alison (Oboe), Claire (Sax), Ed (trumpet) and Emma (clarinet). Our female vocalists – Lyn, Lorraine and Brenda continue to serve the group faithfully. It has also been a joy to have Lyn join me on piano to assist in leading the praise songs on the 2nd Sunday. Sadly we have said farewell to Imogen (Flute) and Charles (Cello) this year due to other commitments and moving away respectively.

The Music Group meets to practise in Church at 7.30 pm on the 2nd and 4th (or 5th) Sundays of the month during term time. We are always keen to welcome new members so if you feel called to offer your musical talents and/or vocal enthusiasm please do come along to any practice or speak to Brenda or Bob. In addition, if there are songs that you have heard elsewhere and would like us to introduce to St Mary's please do drop us a note with your requests and we'll look to incorporate them into our repertoire. Praise the Lord!

Bob Bottomley

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S GROUPS

We are running Sunday Children's Groups once a month - usually 4th Sunday most months - to compliment monthly Messy Church and occasional alternative services or social events led by Alex Hughes. To run additional groups, i.e. returning to twice monthly we would need three new leaders to run each of the groups once a month for about 10 months a year.

We have three groups: pathfinders are children in year 6 or older; explorers is for years 3 to year 5; and climbers/scramblers are our infant school children and pre-schoolers - children below school age are accompanied by an adult.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship is a friendly group of ladies who meet on the third Monday of the month, either in the Church Hall Lounge or at a member's house. Our programme this year included an informative visit to Fareham Community Hospital and a guided walk around Titchfield followed by supper at "The Wheatsheaf". We held a successful end of year BBQ hosted by Jill Sadler. From September 2015 our meetings have included talks by Miranda Hall on the work of World Vision and Reflections of a retiring Magistrate by Nick St.John.

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One of our outreach events is providing the hospitality given to those attending the Solent Singers' Concert just before Christmas. This has proved a great success. We usually end the season with a social evening where partners are invited.

We also support certain charities which are recommended to us by our members.

If you are interested in joining our group please contact either -

Sarah Sands 01489 601472 or

Brenda St.John 01489 574589