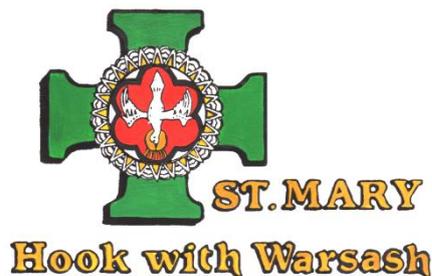


Appendix One
St Mary, Hook-with-Warsash
2018 Informal Reports



Photo Adam Shaw

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
30th April 2019



St Mary Hook-with-Warsash, 109 Church Road, Warsash, Southampton, SO31 9GF
Email: enquiries@stmarywarsash.org.uk Website: stmarywarsash.org.uk
Charity Number: 1162521

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORK

2018 has been a year of busy creativity, music and learning – celebrating God’s love for each of us and growing in our faith.

Revd. Nicky-Sue Terry is working alongside our fabulous volunteers and in November 2018 Lorraine Yeomans was recruited as Interim Families Worker.

Our **Family Worship Service** continues to grow and draw new worshippers to St Mary’s. It is led by a team of clergy, lay leaders, parents and the music group headed up by Bob Bottomley. Liz Simpson chairs team meetings where feedback helps us shape future services. Each month two leaders plan the service and coordinate the team’s participation in various roles – everyone is growing in confidence and experience in leading various elements of the service. We have fun, there is a great atmosphere, and people of all ages love to worship with us!

Our **Stay and Play** group for parents and carers with babies and toddlers continues to be a joyful and friendly time, held on Thursday afternoons in term time. Some families attend regularly, some occasionally; everyone is made welcome and friendships are built. Our faithful group of volunteers assist in the hall or kitchen; and they, the clergy and lay ministers enjoy getting to know these young families, some of whom also come to Messy Church or Family Worship. On second Thursdays, the story and songs are in the church at **Tots’ Praise**, run by clergy and lay leaders, with music by Bob Bottomley or Revd Mike Terry.

Messy Church continues on second Thursdays, including an Easter special on Good Friday. Families come and go as their busy lives permit. The team of volunteers are amazing, with such willingness to serve, offering their creativity in helping with crafts, bringing an openness to explain our theme and bible story in fresh ways – all while having lots of fun! Revd Mike Terry, June Ward and Bob Bottomley lead our Celebration service in the church which weaves together music and teaching and is invariably rather loud and ‘messy’!

Our strong links with Hook Academy continue through clergy and lay ministers leading **Collective Worship** and the participation by several church members as **School Governors** and on the **Forging Links Committee**. We are now looking forward to celebrating our 150th Anniversary, along with the school (who share the anniversary), and are meeting to discuss ideas for suitable activities and projects.

Revd Nicky-Sue Terry, Joint Vicar

PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

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

Members Rev. Nicky-Sue Terry, Valerie Edmonds, Eva Upward, Sally Clear, Carol Day, Hazel Burcher, Shaun Francis, + one other.

Mission Priority/aims

To provide pastoral care/support for Parishioners who are ill, housebound or requesting Home Communion.

Report:

This year we are privileged to welcome two new members to our team, Hazel Burcher and Shaun Francis.

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 are unwell and those who need visiting. We further discuss any issues arising and allocate visits to team members.

Each member of the pastoral team has signed a confidentiality form and has been cleared by DBS. We have also completed all safeguarding training as required by the diocese.

We use the Prayer Request Book as a source of referrals in addition to concerns raised by parishioners for folk in need. Requests for visits can also be received by the church office. The Prayer Request Book is updated at the beginning of each month. We distinguish between those visiting as friends and those visiting on behalf of the Church.

We try to update one another informally after the 10 o'clock service as to those in need. This is a way of avoiding duplicating visits/phone calls. As individuals, we pray for all those in our particular care.

When a person is in hospital, one of our team will contact the relevant hospital chaplaincy for them to visit.

Hospital chaplaincies at QA and the General in Southampton offer a committed ministry to the sick.

When Home Communion is requested we aim to respond promptly. A list of those now able to administer Home Communion has been approved by the Bishop.

Some of our team have attended a Pastoral Assistant's course. This course has addressed a training need and will enhance the work of the team considerably. We thank the trainers and team for giving up their valuable time to help others.

Our aim is to continue to develop our skills in pastoral care.

We are a small but committed team who tries to minister to those in need within our limited resources.

This ministry is a blessing to those to whom we minister. We give thanks that God has endowed members of our team with diverse gifts. It is in His power that we follow this special calling and we thank our Lord for all he enables us to do among His people.

Eva Upward

COMMUNICATIONS

The group comprises people involved in areas such as the Church Office, Parish News-Advertising, Editing, Distribution, Social Events, Services and Rosters, Publicity and Website/Social Media. All of these people work in their own areas, so it is important to meet regularly for an exchange of information so that we can communicate in a consistent manner in the various different ways that we have established.

The group has been running in the present format for five years, and we met together three times during 2018. We meet as and when required so that we can plan in advance of events that may need additional advertising or promotion.

Following four years as Parish News Editor, Sheila Wiggs resigned during the year and this role has been taken on by Revd Nicky-Sue Terry on a temporary basis. We thank Sheila for her hard work over her time as Editor. Revd Nicky-Sue is bringing together a small team to share the workload each month, but always looking for eager volunteers.

The Church website continues to evolve. Both the Church and Hall Calendars are available online, and the calendars are now hosted by the website rather than using Google Calendar. We have also recently placed a donate button on the website which forwards to a new JustGiving page which has been set up for fundraising extra funds. This is still work in progress and will evolve over time.

We continue to dip our toe in the water with social media. Twitter is not as useful to us as our FaceBook page. It is not uncommon for posts on our FaceBook page to reach over 1,000 people. We need to keep it targeted and relevant, and this is a challenge. Another way of helping us with our communications is for each member

of the congregation who has a FaceBook account to 'Like' our page. We currently have over 270 likes.

Lastly, and by no means least - Easyfundraising. By now everyone should be aware of what Easyfundraising offers us. We only have 33 supporters signed up so far. For the benefit of anyone who does not know, people who have signed up and make purchases online have a small percentage of their online transaction amount paid to us as a donation on their behalf by the merchant. It reduces the profit margin for the merchant, but more importantly, it does not increase your online price. You can even gift aid it so that we get an additional 25% of the donation given to us by HMRC.

Thanks to all who give up their time to handle their particular area as this work often goes unnoticed, but it is invaluable to the smooth running of the Parish Communications.

Iain Wilkie

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 people on the rota. Since the last AGM two of the team have stood down, so 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!!

Alison Edmondson

CHURCH CHOIR

It has been a difficult year for our church choir in many ways. We were still coming to terms with the loss of Josephine as 2018 began but we had been able to practise and perform, with some success, three anthems for our service of Nine Lessons & Carols. The response from the congregation seemed to indicate that it was worthwhile.

After some unforeseen problems we now have Nick & Molly to help lead on the second and fourth Sunday services which require a robed choir and they come willingly to

practise with us. We have just bought a new version of "Mission Praise" to replace "Worship Today" and are in the process of learning some new praise songs.

Mike & Nicky-Sue are open to developing the choir by the appointment of a musical director of some kind to oversee and promote this important aspect of worship.

As always we are keen to find new members in all four parts to join with us. We meet for practice every Friday at 6.30pm for an hour and then lead the congregation at 10.00am & 6.30pm on the second & fourth Sunday services. On a fifth Sunday evening at present we sing communion to the Merbecke setting.

Peter Upward

CHARITABLE GIVING

Each month St Mary's supports 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.

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 or using material downloaded from their website.

In 2018 we supported 12 charities.

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

The total raised in 2018 through monthly charity collections was £4,994.54

From January 2018 the Finance Committee/PCC decided that St Mary's will donate a set amount to each charity per month, with only congregational collections being made at the Missions To Seafarers Shore Service in July and the Remembrance Day Service in November.

Thank you to everyone who supports our charitable giving.

Jenny Cox

CHURCH CLEANERS AND BRASS CLEANERS

“At the end of 2018 Jim Sigley decided he would step down from brass cleaning after several years; we are very grateful for all his dedication over that time. This now reduces the team of brass cleaners to seven. In 2010 the brass cleaners were called on every twelve weeks. Those that remain have all been advised that the new plaque installed on the organ seat is lacquered and does not require cleaning with any cleaning products. The vestry key is available to all cleaners thus allowing access to both vestries where the collection plate and the baptismal ewer are kept. They have been rather neglected of late and look shabby. Hopefully, with easier access to them they will eventually be restored. If anyone would like to help keep clean the brass or the body of the church, we would very much welcome them.”

Carol Barnden

CHURCH FLOWERS

We (the Church flower arranging team) all continue to enjoy decorating the Church with fresh flowers whenever the need arises. 2018 was sometimes a difficult year for us. The hot weather resulted in the wilting of both the flowers and the arrangers! The heat was so hostile to the flowers that it was decided to leave the Church bare throughout July. Then came August and, with it a wedding fest, 5 in 12 days - and all wanting different colours. We spent most days in the Church preparing for each wedding in very high temperatures. The porch flowers were a particular hit with the local deer, who found them a useful source of food and water during the parched times. We decided to use different types of foliage rather than leave the porch empty, which discouraged the ruminant raiders. As well as the usual festivals we were privileged to remember the fallen on the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day with beautiful red roses. The flowers are funded by donations from friends and families of the church who wish to remember loved ones or celebrate a special occasion

Carol Barnden

CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall is a popular venue for both regular and occasional users. We ended the year with 8 regular hirers. Our regular hirers range from one session per month to weekly use of the hall. There were 35 casual hires over the past year. The Church Hall is well used by the many church groups. Sadly, the preschool which met 4 days

a week had to close at the end of July due to lack of children attending, we do miss them.

The boiler in the hall is now some 18 years old and beginning to cost us money to keep it in good working order. The Committee decided that it was time to install a new one and after applying to Fareham Borough Council for community funding the new boiler will be installed in 2019

We are still looking at improving the garden at the back of the hall and installing a much-needed new kitchen. These projects need funding and we are looking at ways to raise funds to do the work.

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.

Liz Simpson

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Another very positive year for 'The Friends'.

Our activities are split between two groups. Those who take responsibility for grass cutting on a specific area of the Churchyard and those who turn up on one Saturday morning per month and take on odd jobs.

The latter is followed by tea, coffee and cake in the Hall and makes for a very enjoyable couple of hours or so. My thanks go to Margaret Adams who has now stepped down from her 'catering' role but who has so faithfully served us for many years. This role has now been taken on by Anne Ford.

The whole Churchyard always looks pristine thanks to our volunteers and this does not go unnoticed by its many visitors.

Do join us if you are able, there are jobs to suit all ages and abilities.

Mike Ford

HEALING & PRAYER MINISTRY AND PRAYER LINK TEAMS

The two Prayer Link Teams have been active over the last year with many requests for prayers relating to medical, emotional, family and friends needs. 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 what ever reason.

The Prayer Ministry Team have continued to support all our communion services and at other services when required. The awareness of the Team within St Mary's has increased significantly and this has been confirmed by requests for Healing Prayer outside those services which we have planned to support.

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 and Rita 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 : (01489) 574589 (Healing and Prayer Ministry Team)

Rita Collins : (01489) 576867 (Prayer Link Team)

JIGSAW - THE COFFEE DROP-IN

This is a social event held in the Church Hall Lounge on the FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, between 10 am and midday (or as otherwise advertised in the pew sheet).

All are welcome to drop in, if only for a cuppa and cake, but we would like you to stay longer for a chat and perhaps help to complete the eight or so puzzles on display and/or assist others who may be struggling.

Each month we aim to supply a fresh set of mainly 500 piece puzzles (for space reasons) but we are grateful to those who have donated puzzles of all sizes as we have interchange arrangements with other friends. We already pass on our "used" puzzles, if requested, to those who are unable to come to our meetings. Otherwise they are returned to charity shops or donated to other good causes.

My thanks go to Chris Yates for her valuable assistance in providing the refreshments and for generally making people welcome, and to my daughter for supplying her home made cake.

Come if you can to witness the benefits that some people are receiving with their memory loss problems or for other reasons which we do not question. It's all free!

Thank You.

Roger Page (01489) 601283

LAY MINISTERS

AIMS:

As lay ministers we serve the congregation of St.Mary's. Whenever possible, we reach out into the community with Christ's message so that more can come to know His redeeming love.

We give thanks to God as He continues to bless our ministry.

Another busy year has passed for June and Eva.

June helps out at 'Messy church' which has grown considerably and helps out with 'Stay and Play', occasionally and sometimes taking a lead in 'Tots' praise', the monthly worship service in church. It is part of our outreach to young families with small children.

At Christmas June was responsible for the planning of a very successful crib service in church.

June is also involved in the prayer ministry.

We are both involved in preaching, leading services as well as leading intercessions during services.

Eva is part of a house group; and co-leads one of them. This is a rewarding ministry which is growing in numbers. It is a wonderful opportunity to share and grow our individual faith journeys.

We continue our close links with Hook academy. This involves us both leading collective worship in school as well as leading a prayer session with the children at the end of each half term.

We take turns to 'top and tail' school services in church to support our part time clergy. These events, among other issues, are discussed at school by the Forging Links committee at the academy of which we are 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 wars past and present and its effect on people. This is organized by the school, and June led the Reflection. It is important for the children to have a Christian framework in which they learn about this very important national occasion.

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

Twice a year there is a Bishop's training day which Eva attends, along with Mike and Nicky-Sue. These are interesting, thought provoking days at the cathedral which provide a rich, spiritual experience.

Wherever there is an opportunity for outreach, we take it. This will involve planning for the church's 150th anniversary and our academy will be a part of that.

Eva has conducted her first funeral and perhaps this is a ministry which she might explore further.

Eva is also part of a small but dedicated pastoral support group.

We pray that we may continue to serve God, St.Mary's and our community.

June Ward and Eva Upward

MEN'S GROUP

This group, led by Rev. Bill Day and Bob Bottomley met once in the summer term last year and then, due to personal circumstances relating to the leaders, was unable to put together a programme for the autumn term. This was supposed to be an omission for just that term. But, given that no-one at all had come forward to ask about the lack of a Men's Group meeting, or to express regret at that state of affairs, it has been felt that there is no appetite any more for such a group to be meeting. Although this is sad to say, effectively then, the Men's Group has ceased to be active. I think in order for the Group to be reactivated it would require both a groundswell of opinion that seeks to support such a group, as well as support in terms of leadership and planning.

Revd Bill Day

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers Union is an international Christian charity which works through its membership of 4 million women and men to strengthen and support family life. Through prayer, campaigning for social justice for families and through practical action well over 500,000 people benefit from local and national programmes run by our volunteer members every year in 84 countries around the world.

We encourage and support marriage and family life by being involved in initiatives that respond to the needs of the local community. Our projects include, with the help of St Mary's craft group, knitting and sewing for the still born and premature baby units at QA Hospital. We support the Basics Bank. We host an afternoon tea for those who volunteer in our church. Every year we have a Strawberry Tea to raise funds for projects at home and worldwide. We encourage members and others to take part in the Reverse Advent Calendar for the Basics Bank. We also support AFIA (Away from it All Holidays) a holiday scheme funded by members, to help people who would not otherwise be able to have a holiday or even a day away. Members are involved in community projects locally, in their churches and around the Diocese. We provide support at the local Women's Refuge, and the Robertson Centre.

During 2018 we enrolled two new members and welcomed a member from another branch. At our monthly branch meetings we share worship together, welcome speakers and enjoy discussions using Mothers Union resources. We also enjoy fellowship together with outings and meals. We join with other branches around the diocese for prayer and worship.

Every year in November we have a discussion on the annual theme of 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence. This year we acted out a drama from MU resources called "The Empty Chair" about how can we as a community of faith open up the issue of Domestic Abuse.

This year we also hosted and welcomed members to St Mary's Church from around the Diocese to the annual Deanery Advent Service. We enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Avenue 141 Restaurant. We also assembled the Christingles for the Family Service.

In 2019 we look forward to celebrating 125 years as a branch and encouraging others to join us on our walk with God.

Jean Buckles

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group provides the accompaniment and leads the singing for the Family Worship and Creative Communion services at 10am on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, together with occasional special services. Additionally our musicians provide the backbone of the Christmas Orchestra. It's both a joy and a privilege to lead worship at St Mary's in a contemporary style as we seek to journey into God's presence together.

This year has been a time of consolidation as we have settled into a new dynamic following the loss of Josephine and welcomed Lyn as our core keyboard player. Our faithful band of musicians and singers have continued to offer their unstinting support and for a brief period we were joined by Luke Williams on Ukulele however his parents have been recalled to their previous church temporarily. Perhaps our biggest news this year has been the replacement of the Yamaha Clavinova by a Roland Digital Stage Piano and the introduction of the Mission Praise 30th Anniversary Edition songbook. We are looking forward to exploiting both of these great additions to the music ministry resources at St Mary's over the coming months and years.

The Music Group meets to practice in Church at 7.30 pm on the 2nd and 4th (or 5th) Sundays of the month. We are always keen to welcome new members so if you feel called to offer your musical and/or vocal talents 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 include them.

Bob Bottomley

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Sunday Children's Groups run once a month, on the 4th Sunday for 10 months a year during the 10.00 Service. The children's groups are split into three age groups:

- a) Pathfinders for those in school year 6 and above led by Tracy
- b) Explorers for children in school years 3 – 5 led by Richard.
- c) Scramblers / Climbers for children in infant school and preschool led by Kendal assisted by Emma. Parents must stay with children that are pre-school.

It is a great pleasure that Kendal and Emma have joined us since the last report.

Our sessions include craft, singing, drama or a video and follow a church or bible theme.

Numbers of children have been fluctuating recently and often Explorers and Scramblers/Climbers are combined. We welcome children to all of the groups and always will welcome more children to join us. More helpers are welcome too. We are pleased to be able to work with Lorraine the new Families Worker, Nicky-Sue and Bob in the music group to assist and enhance our activities.

Another successful Nativity in 2018 was led by Ani Lisby in December and we are grateful to her.

Thank you to all involved in our Sunday Children's work and Families work for your support whether practical, love or prayers. It is all valued.

Richard Candlin

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.

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 had an extra social in August kindly hosted by one of our new members Audrey Leonard.

We also support certain charities which are recommended to us by our members. During 2018 we made a donation to the Mission Aviation Fellowship which was gratefully received.

Our programme was varied including talks given by the St. George's Foundation and the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Cookery demonstrations, sharing old photographs, how to make 'Tussie Mussies', a walk through Titchfield, mystery book evening and many other enjoyable meetings.

Last year (2017) we expanded our membership and we are still growing.

If you are interested in joining our group please contact:

Brenda (01489) 574589